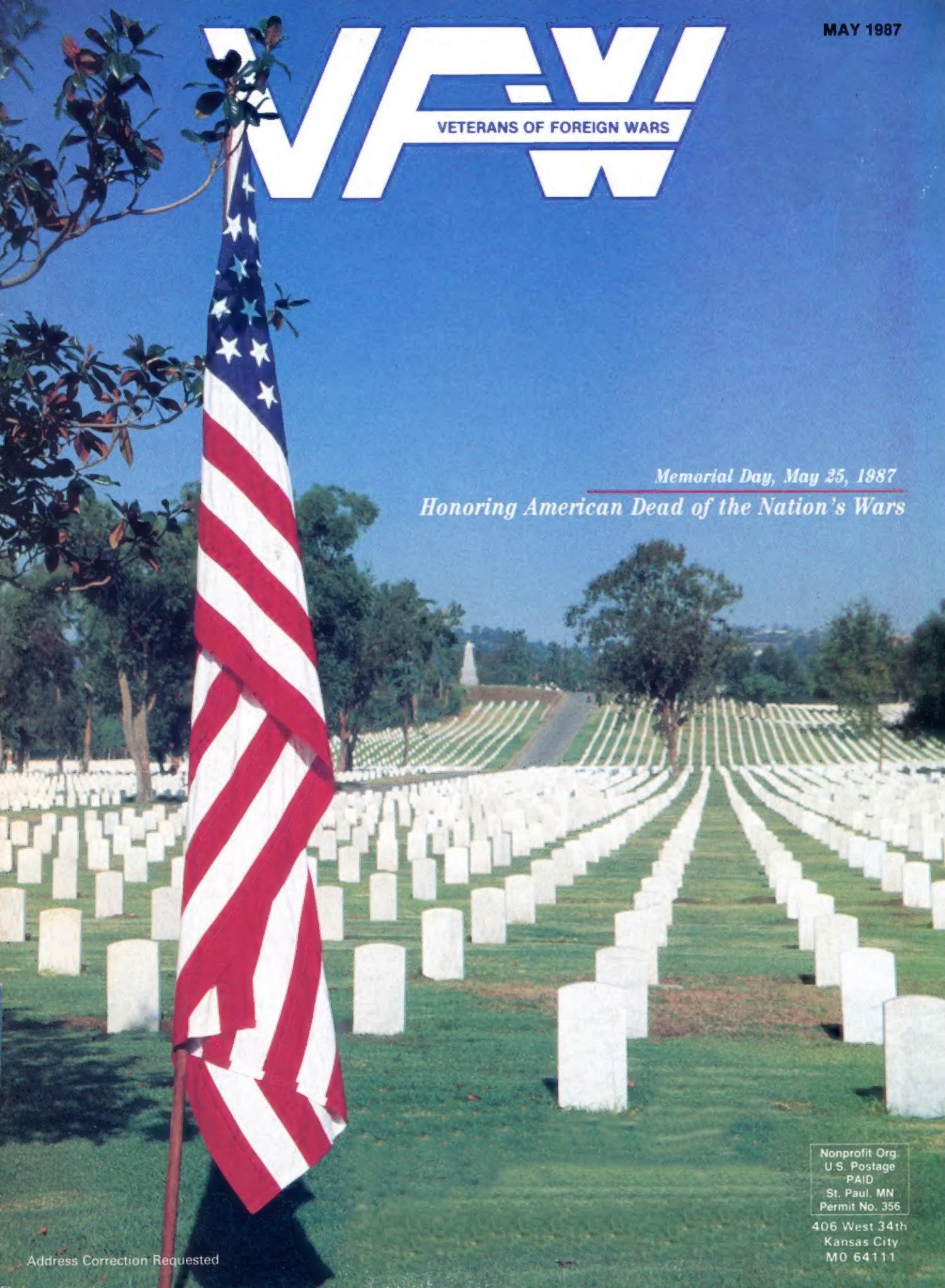


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VA Needs More Money



Norman G. Staab
VFW Commander-in-Chief

Following is the text of my testimony before the combined House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees delivered during the Mid-Winter Conference.

As I am sure you are aware, the VFW puts great emphasis on the Veterans Administration's ability to provide health care to our nation's veterans. We are deeply concerned that the President's proposed FY 88 VA budget will continue to undermine the integrity of the Department of Medicine and Surgery (DMS). This health-care delivery system now faces the major challenge of the very rapidly aging veteran population. Although the entire American population is growing older on the average, the growth in the numbers of aging veterans is much more rapid. By 1990, veterans over 65 will make up more than one-fourth of the veteran population and by 2000 will have reached slightly over one-third. Further, the number of "frail elderly," those 75 and older, will increase more than four-fold in the veteran population between the years 1980 and 2000.

Older people have more health problems and different ones from those in younger populations. Older individuals have more sickness, and their episodes of illness often are

aggravated by pre-existing chronic conditions or by a slower response to treatment. The elderly population will put a much greater demand on the VA's resources in terms of medical expertise, personnel and money.

While the Administration is proposing \$414 million more in FY 88 than was spent in FY 87 for VA medical care, all of the supposed increase will be used to cover so-called "uncontrollable" budget items such as payroll increases and inflation. So what we wind up with is a medical care budget approximately \$288 million short of what we need just to stay even. For this reason, the VFW urges Congress to increase substantially the VA health-care budget.

The President is proposing a \$75 million cancellation of FY 87 funds Congress has already committed. Most of this \$75 million cut in Congressionally-committed funds would fall on the VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery. This misguided proposal calls for terminating or furloughing approximately

patients will be the only ones affected. All categories will suffer inasmuch as there is no set schedule or timetable as to when the various categories of patients will present themselves for treatment at VA facilities throughout the fiscal year. It should be no surprise that the VFW strongly urges Congress to reject the President's rescission message when it is presented.

The VFW is also highly concerned with the reduction in funding for beneficiary travel. For many veterans, the elderly, the infirm, the medically deprived and veterans who live a great distance from a VA medical center, the VA beneficiary travel money is the only means they have for access to health care. Recent studies show that approximately 95% of VA patients qualify as Category A. They are among the most needy of our veteran population and, therefore, the most dependent on beneficiary travel funds. The \$68 million funding level, in our opinion, will not even come close to meeting our veterans' needs. We believe this



Flanked by VFW Washington Office's Cooper T. Holt and Rep. Pat Roberts (Kans.), C-in-C Norman G. Staab appears before House, Senate VACs.

3,000 health-care personnel. What further disturbs us is the ridiculous argument that eliminating this \$75 million would impact only on higher income, nonservice-connected veterans, also known as Category C patients. The VFW doesn't believe for one minute that only Category C

account should be substantially increased.

Another VFW priority goal calls for adequate funding for VA construction for replacement and

continued on page 6

modernization of aging facilities. We are pleased the President recommends major construction projects to include Indianapolis, Ind.; Livermore, Calif.; Waco, Texas, and the Northern California cemetery. Also, the request for asbestos abatement projects is welcome. We do believe, however, the construction budget is inadequate if the Veterans Administration is to maintain even its current workload not to mention contending with the tremendous increase in demand.

It is well known that many buildings are over 30 years old and some of these are of poured concrete construction that prevents changes or flexibility. Over the years, some of the most antiquated types of facilities inherited from the military have been replaced, but not all. Here again, we have hopelessly outmoded physical plants that produce high-quality care only through the dedication of VA employees and the skillful use of equipment and new technologies often in space poorly designed for such gear.

The VA DMS's fundamental concern must be to provide first-rate health care to this nation's veterans. Thus, its primary involvement must be directly related to health care. In order to provide veterans with this top notch care, however, the DMS must have a modern physical plant capable of fully accommodating modern innovations and technology. The VA must prepare for the future now.

Another 1987 VFW priority goal urges Congress to approve a funding level that does not undermine the integrity of the programs administered by the VA's Department of Veterans Benefits.

The President has proposed several legislative initiatives which would impact adversely on services provided to veterans and their dependents by the VA's Department of Veterans Benefits. One is indexing the annual cost-of-living adjustments for VA disability compensation benefits to the Consumer Price

Index. This action, we believe, would diminish Congressional oversight of the program. In the past, the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the entire Congress have been very fair and compassionate in addressing the needs of our nation's service-connected disabled, and we foresee no benefit to veterans in substituting an automatic process for the personal Congressional attention we now enjoy.

'Homelessness is one of the most important and compelling issues to face this country in recent years. The VFW calls on Congress to work diligently toward a long term and permanent solution'

The President's FY 88 budget recommends two legislative proposals which would severely undermine the very successful VA Home Loan Guaranty Program. One would increase the user fee for a VA guaranteed home loan from 1% to 2.5%. Inasmuch as we opposed the establishment of the user fee and its subsequent increase from .5% to a full 1%, we are now even more committed in our opposition to this proposed excessive and unwarranted increase. As we have stated before, we perceive the user fee to be a down payment without benefit of equally reducing the amount to be financed. A fee of \$1,500 amortized over 30 years at today's market rate would require the veteran to pay actually around \$4,500 or three times the initial amount.

The Administration also proposes to repeal the VA's authority to establish a home loan interest rate. We believe departing from this policy would be a serious mistake and detrimental to the veteran's best interest. At present, the VA establishes only the maximum interest rate a

veteran can pay on a guaranteed loan. Even though lenders may charge a lower rate, such cases are rare or nonexistent. Should veterans be forced to negotiate this rate, we believe they will ultimately pay higher rates than they do now with an administered rate.

Needless to say, the VFW strongly opposes the Administration's proposal to cut personnel in VA regional offices. These personnel are responsible for processing claims for disability, death and educational benefits. The Administration justifies this reduction by projecting an increase of 1% in productivity. We question the thinking behind reducing staff when the actual increase in efficiency has not been realized. This decrease in personnel would be premature and only further aggravate services already deficient because of prior staff reduction. Since 1979, almost one-third of the VA regional office staff has been cut. Veterans deserve better treatment than being subjected to endless waiting while their claims are being processed.

Although not listed as a priority goal, the New GI Bill is invaluable as a recruiting tool for the armed forces and as a veteran's readjustment benefit. Thus it warrants comment at this important hearing. We of the VFW are convinced that the New GI Bill is dollar for dollar the most cost-effective means of recruitment now in existence. It is also a low-cost and highly patriotic means for this nation's young people to further their education and then fully achieve their potential. Our nation is served best by an educational incentive which most improves our people resource.

Participation rates indicate the New GI Bill is the incentive our military personnel will use the most and therefore will provide the greatest improvement to society as a whole. As a readjustment mechanism for veterans returning to civilian life, an incentive to attract high-quality young people into the

military and a prudent investment in our nation's human resource, it would be difficult to design a better program than the New GI Bill. We fully support making the New GI Bill a permanent program administered and funded by the VA.

The VFW long has been on record as a staunch supporter of providing a burial with dignity to every veteran who served during wartime. We not only oppose the President's recommendation to limit the plot allowance to the same eligibility requirements as applies to the burial allowance, we support increasing the allowance along with liberalizing the criteria for such eligibility. Legislation has been introduced to reinstate the burial allowance as was mandated prior to 1981. We ask that you lend your support to this meritorious initiative and strive for its timely enactment.

Homelessness is one of the most important and compelling issues to face this country in recent years. The VFW calls on Congress to work diligently toward a long term and permanent solution. Homelessness is not just a veterans' issue. The homeless come from every segment of our society, the very old and the very young, the sick and the healthy, the substance abuser and the non-abuser, the mentally ill and the sound of mind, single men and women and families with children. The list goes on and on. The Veterans of Foreign Wars is ready to do its part and contribute toward a solution. As the Commander-in-Chief of our great organization, I have already encouraged our membership to assist the homeless in their local communities. The response has been encouraging, and we are ready to do our part. We stand ready to serve with our single greatest resource — our membership.

The cornerstone of the Administration's employment and training program has been the Job Training Partnership Act. This program, with one exception, does not pro-

vide preferential services to veterans. An estimated 26% of our country's dislocated workers are veterans, and an increasing number of dislocated workers who are Korean War veterans are dropping out of the labor force. By far, Vietnam Era veterans form the largest group of dislocated veteran workers. Title IV of the Job Training Partnership Act is inadequately funded and of little significance in resolving national vet-

cation, innovation and perseverance characteristic of those who have answered the call of this country. I call upon you to develop programs that return America's veterans, disabled veterans in particular, to their rightful place as productive members of our society.

We also call upon Congress to continue to ensure there be no erosion of veterans' preference in the federal workforce. We further ask



'VA is operating at bare bones level,' says Chief.

erans' employment issues. The Veterans Job Training Act, the only successful veterans' program to date, is faced with total depletion of funds. Also, the Administration currently proposes to devolve the U.S Employment Services, thus further eroding the priority of employment services to veterans. The Workers Readjustment Act proposal, recently submitted by Secretary of Labor William Brock, does not provide for priority of services to dislocated workers who are veterans.

You, the members of this historic 100th Congress, have a responsibility to return America to its position of leadership within the international marketplace. To accomplish this, our labor force will require the dedi-

that the private sector abide by the spirit of veterans' preference in employment.

No one can say the VA has not done its fair share in helping to reduce this nation's deficit. Not only has the VA contributed billions of dollars in cost savings, it is now being asked to provide services to our nation's veterans with a less than current services budget. To put it bluntly, the VA is now operating at a bare bones level. There's simply no more fat. For this reason, we ask that the VA be exempted from further reductions including any sequestration orders pursuant to Gramm-Rudman-Hollings. ■



Official publication of the
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES

Published monthly except July

VFW OBJECTIVES

- To insure the national security through maximum military strength
- To speed the rehabilitation of the nation's disabled and needy veterans
- To assist the widows and orphans and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans
- To promote Americanism through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live

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Postmaster: Forward Form 3579 to
Circulation Dept., VFW Magazine
Broadway at 34th St.
Kansas City, MO 64111

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For subscription in other countries, \$10 per year.

Payment of membership dues includes \$2.25 for a year's subscription to VFW Magazine. VFW Magazine is available in microfilm.

Write:

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Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106

VFW MAGAZINE EDITORIAL OFFICE

Address all communications for publication to The Editor, VFW Magazine, Broadway at 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111

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Forward address changes to: Circulation Department, VFW Magazine, Broadway at 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111. Be sure to furnish your old address, also your Post number, when requesting change to new address. To insure accuracy, please clip and enclose your present address as it is stenciled on a recent copy of VFW Magazine.



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LEGISLATIVE

House Okays New GI Bill: The U.S. House of Representatives has approved by a vote of 401-2 legislation that would make the New GI Bill a permanent education assistance program for veterans and military service personnel. The House also voted to rename the program the "Montgomery GI Bill Act of 1984" in honor of its author and chief proponent, Rep. G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery (Miss.), HVAC chairman.

The New GI Bill was developed as a readjustment benefit for veterans and as an incentive for bright, highly motivated potential recruits to join the military. The program will end June 30, 1988, unless Congress intervenes.

"It would be a tragic mistake to shove such a critically important and successful program back into the closet without letting it achieve its full potential," said Rep. Montgomery.

House Speaker Jim Wright hailed the House-passed bill as "landmark" legislation: "It is my firm judgment that no investment our government ever has made, at least in recent times, has been as productive as the GI Bill of Rights. It has produced not only a richer social fabric for our nation, but actually it has paid back to the Treasury many times the amount that has been invested in making it possible for young Americans of modest economic circumstances to gain college educations."

More than 265,000 active-duty recruits have signed up for the educational benefits offered under the New GI Bill, and another 46,000 participants — members of the Guard and Reserve — have enrolled already in colleges throughout the country.

"We now have a broad cross section of recruits, many who are college-bound, and we're getting finer quality personnel than I've seen in the 35 years I've been dealing with the military," said Montgomery.

Senate Passes POW/MIA Recognition Day: The Senate has passed legislation introduced by Bob Dole establishing National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

"Many times in our nation's history, special groups of our men and women have been called upon to make uncommon sacrifices for their country," Dole said. "Defending the freedoms that you and I might have the tendency to take for granted, many Americans have paid the ultimate price on foreign soil. Still others suffered unimaginable physical and mental hardships while captives of America's enemies. Many never returned. It is the spirit of these unselfish Americans that we must perpetuate. We must continue to remember their dedication, and this legislation goes far in keeping that spirit alive."

"It gave me great pleasure to host last year's

Congressional observance of National POW/MIA Recognition Day. My relationship with the POW/MIA issue is one in which I take particular pride. In continuing that relationship, I want to emphasize that we not only honor our POWs and MIAs, but we should also renew our promise to the courageous families of these special Americans. A grateful nation will never rest until we gain a full accounting of those still listed as missing and unaccounted for.

"My colleagues have enthusiastically supported this legislation. I have added 64 cosponsors to this noteworthy legislation. This is a clear indication of the importance that Senators attach to the settlement of the POW/MIA issue and their genuine concern for those fine Americans who returned from serving their country under such adverse conditions. I would also call on my colleagues once again, as well as all major veterans' organizations, to encourage nationwide participation this September in increasing awareness of the POW/MIA issue. We will never forget these special Americans; their memories shall remain forever."

Rep. Solomon Works to Restore Benefits: At Rep. Gerald Solomon's request, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs submitted language in its recent budget recommendations requesting that the Budget and Appropriations Committee assure a "sufficient level of funding for beneficiary travel." According to Solomon, the travel allowance account has been cut "by almost one-half, from approximately \$120 million."

"There's something lacking in a system that will allow a disabled veteran who happens to live a great distance from a VA hospital and who has little income to go without medical care simply because someone feels the cost of his bus ticket is an expendable item," said Solomon. "I intend to fight this and any continued moves in that direction."

VA Needs More Money for Buildings: When the VFW appeared recently before HVAC's subcommittee on hospitals and health care, it urged a higher budget authorization for construction in the face of the rising population of veterans over 65, expected to triple to 9 million by the year 2000, and the large number now over 75. Preparing to care for them "is one of the most compelling challenges facing the VA today," the VFW said. "The VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery's fundamental concern must be provision of first-rate health care to this nation's veterans," the VFW said. Thus, the \$190 million sought by the Administration for replacement and modernization in 1988 is \$102 million less than 1987 and \$211 less than authorized for 1986, the

WASHINGTON WIRE

VFW continued. "This proposed reduction completely flies in the face of the fact that the demand on the VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery's physical plant is now on the rise and has suffered from under-funding in the past," the VFW declared.

VFW VJTA Recommendations: Testifying before the HVAC education, training and employment subcommittee, the VFW noted that the Veterans Job Training Act is the only such law left on the books and recommended improving "hands on" supervision of participants; a greater effort to reduce employers' skepticism toward the program; changing eligibility to allow veterans "soon to be dislocated" an opportunity to take part, and extending initial application and training deadlines through 1991, with adequate funding to prevent the program's on-again, off-again nature from destroying its long-term merits and credibility.

SERVICE

Beneficiary Travel: An Office of Management and Budget-ordered 1987 slash in beneficiary travel pay — reimbursement of certain veterans for travel expenses to and from VA medical facilities — forced the VA to restrict severely this practice. By resolution of the 1986 VFW National Convention, the organization was mandated to press for beneficiary travel pay restoration. After negotiations with the VFW that began last fall, the VA has decided to expand its limitation of payments from inter-facility transfers and physician-approved special modes of transportation to veterans directed to report for compensation and pension examinations and to those eligible for payments under the old regulations if their travel was more than a 100-mile radius from the nearest VA facility — a deductible of 200 miles for a round trip.

Ex-POW Claims: Although the exact number is not known, the VA estimates 80,000 living Americans were prisoners of war. Under the law, certain ailments are presumed service connected if found in former prisoners of war; VA dental care is available to those who were held more than 180 days, and as Category A veterans, they are entitled to inpatient care at VA facilities. Less than half the former prisoners have come forward. None of their benefits are automatic. They must apply for them and submit evidence to support their claims. If any VFW member knows a former war prisoner who has not claimed any of these benefits or established his or her status with the VA, refer him or her to a Department Service Officer.

SECURITY

U.S. Treated Poorly at UN: The UN General Assembly is now about halfway through its 41st year. The regular session, which convened in early September, ended last Dec. 19. That session is notable from an American perspective for how poorly it has treated the U.S. and U.S. interests. It reversed in some respects the pattern of the past couple of years in which UN delegates and bureaucrats had seemed increasingly aware that the U.S. public and Congress were disillusioned with the international forum. As such, the UN had seemed to begin to deal a bit more evenhandedly with the U.S. and with issues in which this country has great interest.

In the 41st regular session, however, the UN has suffered a relapse. It again passed a steady stream of anti-Western and, in particular, anti-U.S. resolutions. This has triggered widespread dismay among Americans. Sen. Paul Tribble, Jr. (Va.), who has been a U.S. delegate to the 41st General Assembly, for example, complains that the UN "devotes a large part of its energies to attacking the United States." Adds a former U.S. ambassador to the UN: "In many respects, the 41st has been the worst General Assembly yet."

Among the General Assembly's most worrisome actions has been the strong condemnation of the U.S. for its raid on Libya. Not a word was said about Libyan terrorist attacks prompting the American retaliation. Another was the passage of a set of 51 recommendations for the "new world information order." This is the blueprint for censorship that undermined the credibility of UNESCO. Also, for the first time in UN history, the 41st session passed two resolutions promoting the so-called right to development — a discredited scheme to force the transfer of resources from developed to developing nations.

Equally troubling has been the 41st General Assembly's double standard. Though not citing the Soviet Union for its invasion of Afghanistan or for its well-documented human rights violations, the General Assembly did manage to condemn the U.S. by name for its trade embargo against Nicaragua. Chile was condemned for human rights violations, but not one word was said condemning Cuba, one of the globe's worst human rights violators.

Regarding the Middle East, the UN once again condemned Israel as a "non-peaceloving state," the only UN member ever to be so called. Meanwhile, the Assembly praised the "constructive statements" of the Palestine Liberation Organization, a group dedicated to destroying Israel.

On budgetary issues, the Assembly ignored the U.S. request for weighted voting procedures which would bring some measure of accountability and responsibility to the out-of-control UN budget.

Who Knows?

Can any readers confirm a story going around here that a foreman in one of the Japanese U.S. auto plants is the son of one of the officers in charge of the Bataan Death March? Has anyone any information on this? — *Lloyd M. Johnson, 114 S. Filmore, Pierre, S.D., 57501.*

Remembers Korea

I have been a member of the VFW for 33 years and enjoy reading the VFW Magazine. The article "Top Guns in MiG Alley" (March) brought back old memories as I was a member of the 4th Fighter Interceptor Wing in Korea from March, 1951, to August, 1951. We all started out at Langley Field, Va. I was in the bases in Korea of Taegu K-2, Suwon K-13 and Kimpo K-14. I wonder how many members of this unit are still alive? I remember Maj. James Jabara very well and would like to hear from any member of this unit. The morale of this unit was very high. Everyone did a good job. — *Clyde S. Clary, 205 Cherokee Trail, Henrico, N.C. 27842.*

Post Commander Praised

This letter is to commend publicly Commander Larry Reinhart, of Post 10342, Huachuca City, Ariz. A Life Member of Post 1474, Spokane, Wash., I had received permission to park a 25-foot travel trailer in the storage area at Ft. Huachuca. But when I arrived, the lot was full. Commander Reinhart immediately offered me space in his backyard. This young Post Commander, one year out of the Navy, has built the Post's membership from 70 to 125. — *Norvin E. Wroughton, W655, Wyoming #34, Hayden Lake, Idaho 83835.*

Manchu Association

Veterans who served in the 9th Infantry Regiment at any time from the Spanish-American War through the Vietnam War or are currently on active duty with the unit are eligible for membership in the Manchu Association. The Manchu designation derives from the unit's service in the

Boxer Rebellion. The association was formed in 1982 to foster comradeship among the 9th's veterans and to preserve the memory of those who died upholding its traditions. Further information may be obtained from me. — *Oscar Fettig, 2603 Omaha, Pittsburg, Kans. 66762.*

Let's Build Korean Memorial

Carroll W. Dolan's Mail Call comment (March) is a grievous insult not only to every American who served in the Korean War but to all our United Nations allies as well. The Korean War was a noble, majestic and patriotic venture. It was the first time in history that freedom-loving people of the world banded together and fought for freedom against a common enemy. The carnage raged for 37 months, but in the end the side of right and justice prevailed. Tyranny was defeated. A memorial to the Korean War must be raised up that will tell the saga of this heroic determination that men shall be able to live in freedom for generations as yet unborn. — *Albert Robesky, 418 Lincoln Court, Des Moines, Iowa 50310.*

Has "America" Books

I have the 12-volume set of American documents called "America" published and distributed by the VFW in 1930-31. Mine are inscribed with the names of the owners, Irene Frances Laird, Grace Mary Laird, Jeanne Pauten Laird, and the names of their parents, William and Roselle Laird, who gave them the set. If anyone knows them or their descendants, or is one of their descendants, and would like these books, please contact me. — *Ted Daniels, 1138 Raymond Ave., Glendale, Calif. 91201.*

25th Division Association

Recently appointed historian of the 25th Infantry Division Association, I am seeking group and unit photos, unit rosters and narratives of combat experiences. — *Bill Baumann, RD 1, Box 188, Esperance, N.Y. 12066.*

Can Anyone Help?

On behalf of George C.F. Burrows, who lives in England, I am attempting to find an American, thought to have been a major at the time, whom Mr. Burrows helped rescue when the hospital ship St. David, loaded with casualties from Anzio, was bombed by German planes at midnight, Jan. 25, 1944, off Anzio. Last time Mr. Burrows saw the American he was wrapped in a blanket on a Naples dock. — *Mrs. Jean E. Simmonds, Pembroke, 31 The Mixies, Stotfold, Nr. Hitchin, Herts., SG5 4LF, England.*

Support VA Hospitals

I have a service connected disability and was in the John Cochran VA Hospital in St. Louis, Mo., for a routine checkup. My doctor found I was seriously ill. A skilled team of surgeons performed a successful operation on me, and many people took care of me: the doctors; nurses; laboratory technicians, and many more I will not try to mention. I was treated with skill, courtesy and affection.

I am writing this letter to all of our members. We need and like our veterans' hospitals. Congress would like to do away with a lot of our Veterans Administration services and farm out a lot of patients to outside hospitals. Already big cuts have been made in hospital personnel. We do not want to be farmed out to other hospitals. It will cost our government more money; we will not get as good service, and we would not have the fellowship in an outside hospital that we do in our own.

To all our members: write your Representatives and Senators to restore the VA budget and never farm out patients. — *Howard L. Brown, 2160 Lake Dr., Arnold, Mo. 63010.*

Letters should be of no more than 100 words and deal with only one subject. Editing for space, clarity and good taste may be necessary. Published letters include the sender's name and address to enable readers to reply directly. Anonymous mail is not considered for publication. Space limitations preclude use of all the letters received.

Eligibility Changes

Recent eligibility changes now make it easier for children to qualify for residency at the VFW National Home. The change, approved by the Board of Trustees and put into effect Jan. 24, modified the admission criteria for grandchildren of VFW and Auxiliary members. Grandparents formerly were required to have legal custody of the grandchildren before the children were qualified to live at the Home. Such is not the case now. All other eligibility requirements, however, remain unchanged.

Seals Donations Down

A recent marketing report indicates that less than 25% of Posts and Auxiliaries that donated to the Seals program last year have done so this year. Six times as many organizations, however, have not contributed at all in the last two years.

Only a few percentage points separate National Home Life Members and non-members who have donated towards the Seals program this year, with about half of each group responding favorably to the selective Seals Appeal Campaign. Nearly 65,000 National Home Life Members around the country did not contribute last year, and after a direct appeal to them, only 10% returned donations during this current campaign. This means that a small percentage of individuals and organizations is carrying the load.

National Home officials anticipated the Seals donations to account for approximately 32% of the FY 87 revenue budget, but current trends show that estimate to be too high. Predictions are that the Seals will account for only about 25% of the yearly revenues. If this holds true, further cost-cutting measures and belt-tightening will be necessary.

National Home Life Memberships, which are different from the VFW's Life Memberships, add dollars to the Endowment Fund, and interest and dividends from that are another part of the Home's revenue. With interest rates plummeting over the

past year and Seals donations down, Home officials are searching for alternate ways to generate income. Even oil and gas revenues have slowed to a trickle since two of the five National Home wells have dried up.

The Seals campaign is one of the Home's major sources of income. Money from Seals funds all portions of the Home's existence, including care for the children. When Seals donations dwindle, so do the Home's operating funds. Money from other areas must be siphoned off to keep the children's standards of living where they are.



Six members of Post 5857, Onaway, Mich., meet with the VFW National Home Executive Director Theodore Wilson in his office during the group's recent trip to Eaton Rapids. They presented a \$1,900 check that paid for 76 National Home Life Memberships and pushed the Post over the 200-member mark. Every Post 5857 member is a VFW National Home Life Member. Post 5857 has earned the Home's 200-member plate. (VFW National Home photo by Danny Layne)

Buildings in Disrepair

It is rumored that some buildings on campus are deteriorating to the point where they cannot be used.

Fact is that, as expected, there is always a need for emergency and preventative maintenance repairs on all the campus buildings. Some buildings present a maintenance problem, but repairs are gradually being made as money and time permit. Guiding the Home's general, longterm and emergency repair process is the 264-page architect review completed recently.

Homes, undoubtedly, have the highest priority when it comes to repairs and renovations. Working and program spaces follow in that

order. No buildings on campus can not be utilized in some manner.

Fire Department

Another rumor is that the National Home Fire Department is not permitted to respond to campus fires and is only for show.

Nothing could be further from the truth. A major commitment to providing quality training has been made. A former resident, who is now a professional firefighter, has been hired to coordinate the operation. High academic and behavior standards for the student firefighters have been promoted, and recently an adult unit within the department has been formed. Equipment has been upgraded, and a new, individual alerting system has been implemented. The campus fire department is the Home's "first response" for any campus fire.

Three safety restrictions are in effect for the youthful firefighters. They are not allowed to enter a burning building; they cannot take a fire engine out of the station house without a qualified adult being present, and they will not respond to off-campus fires unless the insurance company changes its present rule.

Staff Appreciates Support

The Home's staff continues to be gratified by the support given by individual Posts, Districts and Departments. For example, last fall the 19th District of Illinois on Illinois Day sent two bus loads of visitors with groceries valued at \$1,000. Post 2149 and District 19 National Home Chairman Paul M. Tkach writes: "Each year is different at the Home. People change; the grounds change; farm areas change, and Illinois Day changes from year to year. This year, the children prepared a delicious luncheon for the visitors. This was the first 'all out' meal prepared and served entirely by the children. It was just great." Post 2149 is located in Bensenville, Ill.

NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION

Work and Play, Night and Day

Some of you may think you do not need another reminder, but here it is anyway:

Register early for the 88th National VFW Convention in New Orleans from Aug. 14 to 21, use the accompanying coupon to do so and save \$2 off the regular registration fee of \$8.

The National Convention was the subject of a report by National Convention Director Omar Kendall at the National Council of Administration meeting during the annual Mid-Winter Conference.

Kendall said 5,000 rooms have been set aside by New Orleans hotels for the National Convention at half their regular rates, and he urges everyone planning to attend to send in advance registration forms as soon as possible.

Kendall outlined the schedule of events for the Convention at the National Council of Administration meeting of Feb. 28.

The annual Memorial Service will be held at the Rivergate at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 16. The field competition will be at City Park Stadium Monday, Aug. 17, with the Joint Opening Session with the Ladies Auxiliary National Convention slated also for Monday at the Rivergate.

Tuesday evening the annual Military Parade will make its way down Canal Street. From Tuesday through Thursday, Convention business sessions will be held, awards will be presented and major speakers will present their views to the delegates.

Friday will be taken up with elections of new officers and the administration of their oaths. In the evening, the Commander-in-Chief's reception will be at the New Or-

leans Hilton Hotel while the Auxiliary National President's will be at the Marriott Hotel.

Kendall also announced that Joe Guidry will be Convention chairman.



So you can see the whole period will be filled with Convention activity.

In the daytime, that is. So what about the evenings?

Visitors to New Orleans like to check out the food, for a trip to the city can be a whole new culinary experience.

Because New Orleans is so close to the Gulf of Mexico, fish abound and no visit to the city is complete without trying some of its maritime delicacies.

Take redfish, for example. It is available all the year around, and with the spread of cajun cooking, news of this delight has penetrated to some of the nation's most remote places. Its flesh is firm, its flavor

delicious.

Flounder, flat and white on one side and black on the other, is available in spring and fall. It is most often baked or broiled.

Louisiana is famous for its oysters, eaten raw on the half-shell or used in a wide variety of popular dishes.

But shrimp is America's favorite seafood, and the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi's waters are full of them. The best season is May through December, so VFW Convention delegates will be in New Orleans when they should be at their peak.

Right on the Mississippi and not far from the Gulf, New Orleans can enjoy the best of both piscatorial worlds — freshwater and saltwater.

And when you think of the Father of Waters, what kind of fish come to mind?

That's right. Catfish, and the number one catch down there is channel catfish. Once scorned, and not only because of its name, the catfish is becoming one of the nation's most popular.

Snapper is another well-known fish that finds its way to New Orleans menus. It is juicy and flavorful and can be baked, broiled, steamed or boiled.

Speckled trout is a mainstay of Louisiana fish markets. It is available most of the year around. Tiny black spots that cover its silver body give it its name.

And no one can ignore the Louisiana blue crabs.

So when you go to New Orleans, be sure to sample the famous seafood of the region, but first, be sure to send in your early registration form. ■

Register in Advance for 1987 National Convention
(Make checks or money orders payable to VFW 88th National Convention.)

VFW 88th National Convention
406 West 34th Street
Kansas City, Mo. 64111

Enclosed is my check money order in the amount of \$6.00. Register name and number of our VFW Post for representation at the 88th National Convention in New Orleans, August 14-21, 1987.
(Do not enclose your delegate or alternate credentials with this form.)

Please type or print your name and address:

Name VFW Post

Address

City State Zip

VA Burial Benefits

Awareness of VA burial benefits often can spare the family of a deceased veteran anxiety and financial hardship following the veteran's death, says the VA.

Interment in a national cemetery is available to veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Also eligible under certain guidelines are a veteran's spouse and minor children.

VA will furnish a headstone or marker to memorialize a veteran or mark the grave of a veteran buried in a national, state or private cemetery and markers to eligible dependents interred in a national or state veterans' cemetery.

A memorial marker or headstone for veterans whose remains have not been recovered or identified is also provided by the VA. This includes those who were buried at sea, those whose bodies were donated to science and those who were cremated and the ashes scattered. A memorial section in national cemeteries honors these veterans.

The VA provides, if death is not service connected, a burial allowance of \$300 if the veteran was entitled at the time of death to VA compensation or pension payments or died in a VA medical facility. This allowance also may be available in cases of certain indigent veterans whose remains are unclaimed.

A plot or interment allowance of \$150 also is available if the veteran is entitled to the burial allowance, served during a war period or was discharged or retired from service because of a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty. A veteran buried in a national or other federal cemetery, however, is not eligible for this plot allowance. The plot allowance may be paid to a state if the veteran was buried in a state veterans' cemetery.

If the veteran's death is service connected, VA will pay an amount not to exceed \$1,100 in lieu of the burial and plot allowance, and also will provide a U.S. Flag for use in covering a casket and a reimburse-

ment for part of the cost of private headstone or marker bought after the veteran's death and placed on the grave of a veteran. Current amount is \$71, the average cost of government headstones purchased by VA. In addition a memorial certificate, bearing the signature of the President and expressing the nation's recognition of the deceased veteran's service is provided.

VA Ear Implant Study

The Veterans Administration has started a multi-hospital cooperative study of ear implant devices for the profoundly deaf, sponsored jointly by the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Service and the Cooperative Studies Program of the Medical Research Service.

The ear implant is an electronic device which provides electrical impulses to the auditory nerve (nerve of hearing). This activated auditory nerve transmits impulses to the brain where they are interpreted as sound. The two major parts of the implant are a surgically implanted internal part and an external part worn on the body.

Surgery to implant the device would involve a hospital stay of from five to eight days and a rehabilitation period during which the device is adjusted for the individual patient and for the patient to learn how to understand the new sounds. The patient would also be asked to return for periodic follow-up visits over a period of two to five years, at intervals of three months and 12 months, and then annually.

Potential benefits of the ear implant include the ability to detect environmental sounds, improved speech and enhanced listening and lip reading ability.

Study's primary aim is to compare four different ear implant devices. One-hundred-twenty veterans profoundly deaf in both ears will be entered into the study over a three-year period. The implants, which cost about \$10,000 apiece, will be provided at no charge to the veteran patient.

Veterans will be entered by VA participating medical centers at Ann Arbor, Mich.; Houston, Texas; Iowa City, Iowa; Long Beach, Calif.; New York, N.Y.; Seattle, Wash., and West Haven, Conn.

Any veteran of the U.S. Armed Services who is profoundly deaf in both ears and interested in being considered as a candidate to participate in the study should write or phone Susan Fisher, VA Cooperative Studies Program Coordinating Center (151K), VA Hospital, Hines, Ill. 60141. Telephone number is (312) 343-7200, Ext. 2652.

The Story of Arlington

On Memorial Day, the focus of the nation's attention is on Arlington National Cemetery, and the story of this hallowed ground has been told by Philip Bigler in his recently published book, "In Honored Glory."

Bigler, a graduate of James Madison University and the College of William and Mary, worked for two years as a historian at Arlington doing research and maintaining historical records.

The final resting place of more than 200,000 Americans, Arlington National Cemetery once was the property of George Washington Parke Custis, grandson of Martha Washington, and the home of Robert E. Lee. Custis named the estate Mt. Washington but was renamed Arlington to avoid confusion with the multitude of other sites named for the first President. From Arlington, Custis watched as the British burned the capital during the War of 1812.

Custis's daughter, Mary, married Lee, and the wedding was held in the famous Greek Revival Arlington House, overlooking the Potomac and Washington. Six of the Lees' seven children were born there. With the outbreak of the Civil War, federal troops seized Arlington lest the Confederates fortify it and threaten Washington with artillery emplaced on its commanding heights. Lee's house became headquarters of the Union's Army of the Potomac. It became U.S. property in 1864, auc-

tioned off for \$26,800 because of a tax default.

The first military burial at Arlington was that of Pvt. William Christman, of the 67th Pennsylvania Infantry, who died of peritonitis after two months in the Army. Soon, part of the estate was set aside for burials of troops who died in the Washington and Alexandria, Va., area. By the end of 1864, more than 7,000 had been buried there.

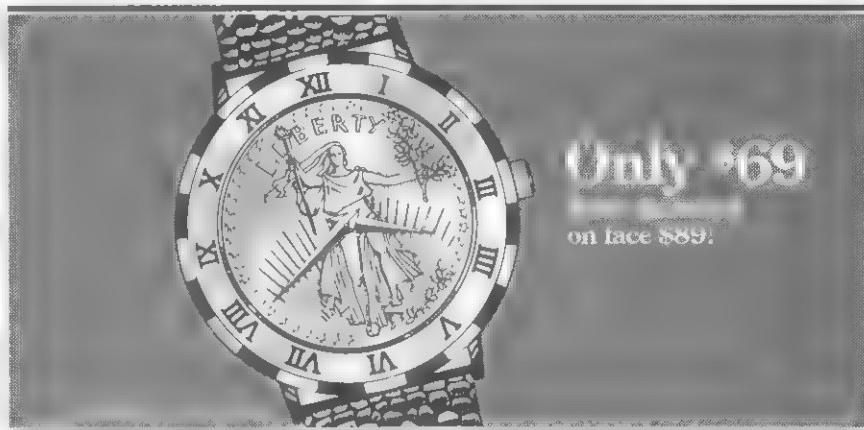
After the war was over, burials continued as battlefields were searched for remains, and many more were buried at Arlington. Naturally, Mrs. Lee resented this use of the family's former property. She returned once but was so upset at the sight that she did not leave her carriage and died five months later.

In 1892, an effort was made to make Arlington representative of all American wars up to then by reintering four Revolutionary War soldiers there from their graves in Georgetown, and in 1905, four unknowns from the War of 1812 were reburied there. In 1914, a Confederate Monument was erected, and 409 Confederate soldiers buried in Arlington were reinterred at its base.

The Spanish-American War was the first one in which bodies of Americans killed overseas were brought home for burial. The sailors killed on the USS Maine were buried at Arlington near the mast of the ship as a memorial. The Maine memorial contains the remains of Ignace Jan Paderewski, the world famous pianist and statesman who died in 1941 in New York after being deposed as Poland's president. He will stay there "until Poland is free."

The Memorial Amphitheater was completed in 1920 and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier the following year. Since then Unknowns from three wars have been added, and the site has become the center of Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies. Since 1936, a sentry has guarded the tomb 24 hours a day, a duty given the 3rd Infantry in 1948. It is a shrine for all Americans. ■

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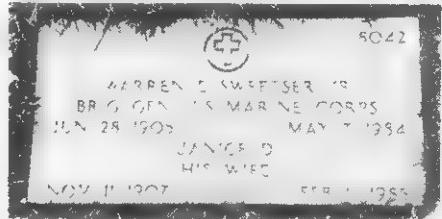
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VF -0587

A Bivouac With Fallen Warriors

All these were
glorious in their
time, each illus-
trious in his day
... All these are
buried in peace,
but their name
lives on and on."

— Chap. 44, Ecclesiasticus



In 1862, President Lincoln signed an act authorizing establishment of national cemeteries for "soldiers who shall die in the service of their country." Proclaiming May 30, 1868, as a time for Civil War veterans to pay public tribute to their departed comrades, Gen. John A. Logan, commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, the organization of Union veterans, declared:

"Let no ravages of time testify to coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and independent nation."

America's Memorial Day tradition now honors both the 1.1 million veterans, whose deaths in battle were freedom's highest price and the 14 million who have died since serving their country.

All were heroes in their time, their foes stronger, their feats more awesome and their weapons more terrible than the bravest champions of legendary lore.

Famed and forgotten, they now rest side-by-side in 109 serenely somber burial grounds.

- The last survivor of the War of 1812, Cypress Hills National Cemetery, Brooklyn, N.Y.
- Indian scouts Stick-Out-Belly, Set-Them-Up, Deer-In-Water, Young Chicken and Coming Deer, Ft. Scott, Kans.
- The victims of a Seminole Indian attack in 1835, called Dade's Massacre, St. Augustine, Fla.
- Twenty-eight enlisted men killed by Sioux Indians in the Grattan

By Bob Moore

Massacre of 1854, Ft. McPherson, Neb.

- Victims of Apache attacks in the 1870s and 80s, Ft. Bayard, N.M.
- Famous general and hero of the Mexican War, President Zachary Taylor, Louisville, Ky.
- The first casualty of the Civil War, Grafton, W.Va.
- The first woman soldier buried in a national cemetery, who disguised herself as a man and enlisted in the Union Army to be with her husband, Florence, S.C.
- Four employees of the Quartermaster Corps who drowned in pursuit of John Wilkes Booth, Alexandria, Va.
- Members of Andrews Raiders, who tried to destroy the railroad between Chattanooga and Atlanta, Chattanooga, Tenn.
- Vivia Thomas who, prior to the Civil War, served 24 years in the armed forces disguised as a man, Ft. Gibson, Okla.
- Winter, spring, summer and fall, the lonely sound of "Taps" reverberates across America's national cemeteries. At the bugler's signal, soldier-

straight pallbearers remove a red, white and blue shroud from another fallen warrior and fold his Flag into a three-cornered memory.

At Quantico, an Indian word meaning "by the large stream," nature provides the most impressive ceremony. The Virginia seasons seem to shout that life goes on.

"Look at the marching band of forsythia beneath the sturdy dogwood tree," summer calls.

"Look at the lush forest of day lilies, blue chicory, honeysuckle, dill and daisies. Look, just look!"

After summer comes the first frost of fall. Lilies rot and die. Dogwoods lose their leaves. But the cycle of life never ends. The design never changes.

In the world of men, the orderly rotation is the same. All is as it was, is, and shall be. As in nature, the certainty of spring softens the icy anguish of winter.

Clutching the elbow of the cemetery representative, a young widow sways in grief. Wiping a tear from her face, she glances around at the rolling, wooded grounds and sobs:

"At least he is here, in a place where I can come."

Behind the wife, the father stands, hand to mouth. By his side stands the mother, eyes squeezed shut.

At the final crack of rifles, the grieving faces file from the committal shelter. Then a church truck carries casket to grave.

"Nice family," said cemetery representative John Ferris, handing verification papers to program clerk A.J. Murphree. Ferris, Murphree, or program assistant Ann Shiflett attend every funeral.

"As representatives of the Veterans Administration, we are available to help in any way we can," said Ferris. "We try to answer any questions the families may have."

Shiflett explained that veterans with other than a dishonorable discharge are entitled to burial in any national cemetery with available space. Even in cemeteries without new spaces, dependents may be buried in reserved family graves.

The National Cemeteries Act of 1973 transferred the system from the Army to the Veterans Administration and gave the administrator authority to expand cemeteries or establish more.

"We provide free gravesites, markers, grave openings, closings, and perpetual care," said Shiflett. The VA provided 275,000 headstones and markers last year.

Shiflett says veterans who wish to be buried in a national cemetery should mention it in their will. They should also keep their military records available to assist funeral directors in contacting cemeteries, determining eligibility and scheduling services.

"We bury veterans with the dignity they deserve," said Shiflett.

Quantico had 609 funerals last year. Most were for soldiers.

The Army furnishes a bugler and a firing party of four from Fort Belvoir. The Marine Corps from Quantico, Air Force from Bolling, Navy from the Washington Navy Yard and Coast Guard from Alexandria provide larger squads, a firing party of seven, plus six pallbearers and a bugler.

The smallest funerals have only an honor guard, a member of the office staff, a funeral director and a hospital chaplain.

"Sometimes there is no surviving family," Shiflett explained.

The largest processions are mile-long motorcades, with van-loads of flowers and wreaths to place under well-kept committal shelters and around the immaculate grounds.

The VA employs 11 groundskeepers at Quantico to mow and trim every day during the growing season. "One of our hardest jobs is watering the grass by truck to keep it from burning up in summer," said general foreman Glenn Mills.

Mills divides his crew into three units for interment, grounds and maintenance and facilities and equipment. Like the office staff, every maintenance employee is trained to fill in for others.

While all office employees can eval-

uate burial eligibility, cemetery director Fred Haselbarth makes most major decisions, like preparing a budget two years in advance.

"It's a demanding job, but I get a lot of help from my fellow employees, funeral directors, veterans' organizations and the military," said Haselbarth.

Once part of the neighboring Marine Corps base, the 725-acre cemetery site, a great, natural shrine 25 miles south of Washington, D.C., was transferred to the VA in 1977.

Since its dedication in 1983, the cemetery has had fewer than 2,000 interments in its 98 developed acres. When fully developed, it will provide 350,000 grave spaces.

The cemetery is open to visitors like retired Marine Corps Col. Jack Maas every day of the year.

"We buried one of my closest friends here two years ago in May," said Maas. "But I'm not mourning his death. I'm here to celebrate his life."

During the early 1930s, Brig. Gen. Warren E. Sweetser was assigned to VF-9M Red Devil squadron at Quantico.

During World War II, Sweetser was in the original PBJ (B-25) training group at Edenton and Cherry Point and saw service in the Pacific in the Solomon Islands, Bougainville, the Philippines and Okinawa, with Marine Aircraft Groups 14, 15 and 24.

Following WWII, he commanded two Marine air groups during the Korean War.

Buried with full military honors, Sweetser is the first general officer buried in Quantico National Cemetery.

"I thank God that Ned Sweetser lived," said Maas. "He served his country long and well."

Unlike Maas, most visitors do not elaborate on their emotions. They come to contemplate — to reflect on the heroism and the cause. While none deny the high cost of war or to whom the debt is owed, silent reckoning is the only tribute they provide.

Aces Double Down



By Capt. Kevin Krejcarek

Photography by Tal Wilson

At the close of the Korean War, 5th Air Force F-86 Sabrejet pilots had tallied an enviable record of over 800 enemy aircraft downed, 90% of them MiG-15s. The United States lost 139 aircraft, about half of them Sabrejets.

Thirty-nine Sabrejet pilots visited the corridor near the Yalu River and the North Korea-Manchuria border known MiG Alley and returned with five or more confirmed kills and the right to be called a fighter ace. Eleven Air Force pilots claimed ten or more downed enemy planes to earn the distinction of double ace.

The stories of seven of them appeared in the March and April issues of VFW Magazine. This final installment recounts the aerial derring-do of the final four.

Korea's First Double Ace

Maj. George A. Davis Jr., who was awarded the Medal of Honor, was one of 5th Air Force's top guns, with seven victories in World War II and 14 more in the Korean War.

In February, 1951, he was selected for major and only months later was back in combat. This time in Korea with the 4th Fighter-Interceptor Group as commander of the 334th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron. By December, 1951, he was a double

ace, the first in the Korean War.

On Feb. 10, 1952, Maj. Davis was leading a flight of four F-86 Sabrejets on a combat air patrol near the Manchurian border when his element leader ran out of oxygen and was forced to retire from the flight with his wingman.

Maj. Davis continued the mission and sighted a formation of 12 MiG-

15 aircraft speeding toward an area where friendly fight-

er-bombers were conducting low-level operations. Disregarding the enemy's numerical superiority, he dove at the MiG formation. Singling out a MiG-15, he destroyed it with a concentrated burst of fire. Although under continuous fire from the enemy fighters, Maj. Davis sustained his attack by firing at another MiG-15 which burst into smoke and flames. Rather than maintain his superior speed and evade the enemy fire concentrated on him, he reduced speed and sought a third MiG-15. During this latest attack, his aircraft sustained a direct hit and crashed into a mountain 30 miles south of the Yalu River.

For engaging the enemy without regard for his own safety on that bitterly cold February morning, Maj. George A. Davis posthumously received the Medal of Honor.

The two MiGs he destroyed the day he died gave him a record of 14



Maj. George A. Davis, Medal of Honor winner and 5th Air Force "ace" for both World War II and Korea.

for the Korean War. The seven kills from World War II action ties him with Maj. William T. Whisner, Jr., as the fourth leading Air Force ace for those two wars with 21 total victories.

A Teacher-Doer

Capt. Manuel J. Fernandez understood the art of gunnery practice. After two years of teaching students the skills needed in F-86 Sabrejet combat at Nellis AFB, Nev., he transferred to Korea in September, 1952. During his next 125 combat missions he became the third highest ace in the Korean War.

Entering military service in 1943, he earned his wings and commission in November, 1944, but he saw no World War II action.

When he entered the Korean combat zone, it was only a matter of weeks before he flamed his first MiG-15. On Oct. 4, 1952, while flying wingman in an element of two F-86s, he sighted and attacked the MiG, scoring hits on the right side of the aircraft's fuselage. The MiG burst into flames and crashed near Uiju.

At his home unit, the 334th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, part of 5th Air Force's famed 4th Fighter-Interceptor Wing, he painted his first red star on the F-86's side to signify one kill of an enemy jet. During the coming months he downed two more MiGs in the skies over Korea.

On the day he became an ace, Feb. 18, 1953, his combat agility also earned him the Silver Star. He and his wingman attacked a formation of 24 MiGs, and Fernandez was able to paint two more red stars on his F-86 and become the 26th ace of the Korean War.

During a fighter sweep over North Korea on March 21, he sighted and attacked a flight of 30 MiG-15s. He was unable to release one of his external fuel tanks, however. With greatly reduced maneuverability, he

accelerated to position his guns on the two enemy aircraft trailing in the formation. He let go with a burst and watched the shells strike the fuselage and wing of one of the enemy jets. Closing on the MiG again, he showered the craft with fire. This forced the enemy pilot to bail out of his crippled plane.

Picking up another MiG, he closed to within 150 feet. Firing several short gun bursts, his target flamed and spun to earth. For downing two enemy aircraft and displaying extra-



Capt. Manuel J. Fernandez Jr., the third best jet fighter ace with 14.5 victories.

ordinary courage in attacking an enemy formation with an impaired F-86, Capt. Fernandez was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.



His last aerial victory came May 10 near the Sui Ho Reservoir. The captain, leading a flight of four F-86s, engaged 12 enemy MiGs. Taking over an attack on one MiG from Maj. Foster L. Smith, Fernandez scored hits on the wings and fuselage. The action gave Maj. Smith and him each credit for one-half enemy airplane shot down and resulted in his final kill record of 14½ MiGs.

As the third highest Korean War ace, he remained on flying status until his retirement on June 30, 1963. His last active duty assignment was to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he served as operations and training advisor to the Argentine Air Force.

Parr Excellence

Capt. Ralph S. Parr is credited with a unique victory: the last downing of an enemy aircraft in the Korean War.

Earning his wings and commission in February, 1944, Parr was a flight instructor until he was sent to the Pacific theater for combat duty during World War II, but he was never credited with an aerial victory.

When the Korean War began and sporting new first lieutenant bar, he went to Korea, was assigned to the



Colonel (then captain) Ralph S. Parr, Jr., is credited with 10 aerial victories and the last "kill" of the Korean War on July 27, 1953.

49th Fighter-Bomber Wing, and flew 165 combat missions. Transferred to the 4th Fighter-Interceptor Wing flying the F-86, he scored his first

aerial victory in two wars at 6:57 a.m., June 7, 1953. While his first kill was falling from the sky, Parr was jumped by six more MiGs. All emptied their guns trying to hit his jet. At 7 a.m., he jumped on the tail of another MiG-15 and hit it with a burst of gunfire. The MiG abruptly snapped over on its back and the pilot ejected near Uiju. Parr started his climb on the ace ladder with two kills. By mid-June he had flamed his fifth MiG to make ace.

On June 27, 1953, only hours before the cease-fire was signed, Parr sighted an aircraft while leading a routine four-ship patrol. After making two identification passes and verifying it as an enemy IL-2, he attacked. His gunfire hit its left and right engines. The enemy aircraft began to trail debris. Its right engine caught fire and exploded tearing off the wing. Capt. Parr and the three pilots of his formation watched the ill-fated IL-2 spin and crash near Hoha-dong. This last official aerial victory of the Korean War allowed Capt. Ralph Parr to become a double ace with 10 confirmed kills.

Ace of Aces

Capt. Joseph M. McConnell was the leading ace of the Korean War with 16 aerial victories, a jet record equalled only by Luftwaffe pilot Heinz Bar.

Acedom came on Feb. 16, 1953. While flying as flight leader of four F-86 aircraft, Lt. McConnell observed a formation of eight enemy aircraft. He immediately initiated an attack and fired several short bursts. Hits were observed on the wing roots and the tail section. The MiG-15 pilot bailed out and the aircraft crashed near Sui Ho Reservoir.

Only four weeks earlier McConnell had flamed his first four enemy aircraft on the way to becoming an ace.

During WWII, McConnell flew combat missions on B-24s over Germany. Following the war, he became one of the first officers trained specifically as a jet pilot.

In Korea, he was raising his kill rates fast, but after dropping his eighth MiG, his plane caught anti-aircraft fire and was forced down in enemy waters. Soon picked up by air-sea rescue and headed back to home base, he was back in MiG Alley the next day.



Capt. Joseph M. McConnell, leading Korean War and jet fighter ace, with 16 victories.

On May 21, 1953, he received the Distinguished Service Cross. Three days earlier on a mission over North Korea, McConnell and his wingman sighted 28 enemy aircraft. Tremendously outnumbered, he immediately attacked, shooting down one and damaging another. Even though under heavy enemy cannon fire, he came to the aid of his wingman who couldn't shake a MiG off his tail and shot it down. The disorganized enemy formation retreated across the Yalu.

On May 18, 1953, he raised his record to 16 by downing three enemy jets. His 16th target took hits in the tail, left wing and engine before the enemy pilot popped his speed brake and ejected near Namsan.

After returning to the States, he became a test pilot for the U.S. Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB, Calif. On Aug. 25, trying to regain control of a modified F-86, he was killed when the jet crashed in the Mojave Desert.

To date only Lt. Col. Heinz Bar of the World War II Luftwaffe and Capt. McConnell have 16 confirmed victories in jet aircraft, a record which remains on the books. ■

O U R

O B L I G A T I O N

Highlights of 1987 Washington Conference

A wide range of national problems as they impinge on veterans' issues and national security received intense attention of VFW leaders and national committee members from throughout the country and overseas during the annual Mid-Winter Conference in Washington from Feb. 27 to March 3.

A highlight of the event was the appearance of Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab at a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees to present the organization's legislative recommendations for the 100th Congress.

Staab also praised the 99th Congress for expanding veterans' legislation and asked protection of veterans' benefits against further Gramm-Rudman-Hollings reductions.

Accompanying Commander-in-Chief Staab were an estimated more than 1,000 VFW officials and several leaders of the Ladies Auxiliary. Many of them spent the rest of the day visiting with their Representatives and Senators to advise them of VFW positions on pending bills.

The text of Commander-in-Chief Staab's presentation, which was based on the organization's priority goals developed from resolutions passed by the 87th National Convention, comprises this month's Command Post column on page 4.

He was introduced by Rep. Pat Roberts (Kans.), from his House District, and Sen. Robert Dole, a Life Member of Post 6240, Staab's home Post in their hometown of Russell,

Kans.

Rep. Gerald Solomon (N.Y.), ranking minority member of the House committee, said the VFW had come to Washington "to pursue the objectives of this great organization that represents a cross-section of all that's good about America."

Sen. Alan Cranston (Calif.), who chairs the Senate committee, reviewed several proposals in President Reagan's VA 1988 budget request the committee will reject, such as tying disability compensation and dependency indemnity compensation to the Consumer Price Index.

"Let's move forward and do what's right for veterans because this is doing what's right for America," he said.

Among others expressing support of VFW proposals were Rep. G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery (Miss.), who chairs the House committee; Sen. Frank Murkowski (Alaska), of the Senate committee, and several others.

That night, March 3, Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (Hawaii), who earned a Distinguished Service Cross and lost his right arm fighting in Italy with the Nisei 442nd RCT, received the VFW's Congressional Award at the annual dinner honoring House and Senate members.

Staab introduced him as a man who "served the nation with distinction, a great statesman and an American patriot." He also read a congratulatory telegram from President Reagan to Inouye and the VFW.

After unveiling the Congressional

Resilience of the American people is the secret of how the nation has weathered major crises over the past several years, said Sen. Daniel K. Inouye. "Our strength lies in the hearts of this conglomerate of people that is America . . ."



Elaine Barnett, of Fresno, Calif., was the first place VOD winner. Her award was a \$14,000 scholarship. Prizes to the other six totaled \$19,500. Subject this year was 'The Challenge of American Citizenship.'



Award, Staab announced that the \$1,000 check accompanying it would be given by Sen. Inouye to Hawaii Loa College.

In his acceptance speech, Inouye said that after 27 years in Congress, "my respect for democracy is growing every day" as the resilience of the American people and the democratic system to withstand crises have been demonstrated frequently during that period.

He cited the election of John F. Kennedy as the first Roman Catholic president, his assassination, followed by the orderly transfer of power to Lyndon B. Johnson, and Watergate on top of anti-Vietnam War rioting.

In the Kennedy and Watergate crises, he said, people would ask what do we do now?

"A new president was sworn in, the country settled down without armed troops or a military junta," he said. "During the Vietnam War, our democracy was tested, and the people demonstrated resilience and strength."

For months in Washington, the city started to burn, "and it seemed as if we faced open racial war, but again the strength and resilience of our people carried us through. There were no tanks and divisions of men during Watergate. The president resigned and his successor took office.

"But sadly in recent days, we have used the words 'scandal' and 'cover-up,'" he added, referring to the Iran-Contra arms for hostages trade.

"What is the secret of all this? Is it the Constitution? Other countries have constitutions. The Soviet Union's is a beautiful document. Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes wrote that an enlightened people give life to the Constitution.

"I don't know the source, but our strength lies in the hearts of this conglomerate of people that is America . . .

"I am proud to live in a land that does not burn books, but permits us to read all books . . . I am proud to live in a country that provides hospital care for the elderly in their autumn years . . .

"I am proud of Thomas Jefferson,

Abraham Lincoln, Helen Keller and Martin Luther King. Resilience has always been part of our national character, and I believe it still is."

During the dinner, Elaine Barnett, a Fresno, Calif., high school senior, was introduced as the winner of the Voice of Democracy first place T.C. Selman \$14,000 scholarship. Sponsored by Post 884 and its Ladies Auxiliary, she plans to enter the University of California at Los Angeles. She read her essay on this year's theme, "The Challenge of American Citizenship."

Other winners, their scholarships and sponsors were Christine Le-Shana, a Seattle, Wash., high school junior, \$7,000, second place, sponsored by Post 3348 and its Ladies Auxiliary; Joseph Smydo, a Bentleyville, Pa., high school senior, \$4,500, third place, sponsored by Post 5454 and its Ladies Auxiliary; Susan Fennessey, an East Providence, R.I., high school senior, \$3,500, fourth place, sponsored by Post 5385 and its Ladies Auxiliary, and Brian Brooks, a Pueblo, Colo., high school senior, \$2,500, fifth place, sponsored by Post 61 and its Ladies Auxiliary.

Winner of the Francis J. Tallman \$1,000 scholarship for sixth place was Jaymee Rickey, a Butte, Mont., high school junior, sponsored by Post 1448 and its Ladies Auxiliary.

The newly-instituted \$1,000 Joseph O. Hansen Scholarship for the seventh place winner went to Tara Marie Hitchcock, a Plano, Texas, high school junior. She was sponsored by Post 4380 and its Ladies Auxiliary.

The two major speakers at the General Session Monday, March 2, were Sen. Dole and U.S. Atty. Gen. Edwin Meese.

Thrust of Dole's remarks was the need for a strong national defense in the face of threats to U.S. freedom.

"Let me make this point very clearly: Whatever it costs to insure our defense, whatever that figure is, we can't afford not to pay it. And whatever we need to do technologically, in terms of new weapons and better training, we have to pay that cost, too," he said.

continued on page 34

Warriors' Memories Won't Fade

For two onetime warriors, recent events had a special, personal meaning.

The two were Sen. Bob Dole and Vice President George Bush.

For Dole the events were speaking to his VFW comrades at the General Session of the Mid-Winter Conference in Washington and a few weeks later watching the story of his WWII unit, the 10th Mountain Division, on public television.

For Vice President Bush, a Life Member of Post 4344, Houston, Texas, they were visiting with VFW leaders such as Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab, Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., and Cooper T. Holt, executive director of the VFW Washington Office.

During the meeting in Bush's office, the four discussed a wide range of major issues from veterans' concerns, Central America and the POW/MIA question to the Middle East.

During the final months of World War II in Europe, Dole was a second lieutenant platoon leader in the 10th Mountain Division, and with that unit he was so severely wounded he was not expected to live.

Dole, a Life Member of Post 6240 in his hometown of Russell, Kans., often recalls that the Post raised the money to send him to one of the nation's finest neurosurgeons to help repair his wartime injuries. Commander-in-Chief Staab, also a Life Member of Post 6240, calls Russell home, too.

Bush, the youngest commissioned Navy pilot when he received his wings at 18, enlisted immediately after graduating from prep school. In September, 1944, the Avenger he was flying from the carrier San Jacinto with two crewmembers was shot down in an attack on Chichi Jima in the Bonins, 600 miles south of Japan in preparation for invading the Palau. Anti-aircraft fire struck his plane. The plane burst into flames, and the two crewmen were lost, but Bush managed to unload his bombs on the radio installation.

At 1,500 feet, Bush parachuted into the ocean, and a Japanese vessel would have captured him had another Navy pilot not driven it off. Bush was rescued by the USS Fin-

back, a submarine in the area, and he spent the next 30 days aboard it until the submarine arrived at Pearl Harbor. He returned to the San Jacinto and continued flying bombing missions until he was sent home in December.

As a Navy pilot, Bush logged 1,228 hours of flying time, made 126 carrier landings and 58 combat missions. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with three stars.

Dole, a native of Russell, was a pre-medical student at the University of Kansas and a promising athlete when he enlisted in the Army's Enlisted Reserve Corps on Dec. 14, 1942, at 19.

Called to active duty in June, 1943, and after training as an Army medic, he was selected for the Army Specialized Training Program to study engineering at Brooklyn College, an assignment that lasted until March, 1944. Later, an anti-tank gunner in the 290th Infantry at Camp Breckinridge, Ky., he was accepted for Officers Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga. Soon he found himself in Italy as a pool officer in a replacement depot.

Meanwhile, the 10th Mountain Division had been organized just for the kind of warfare that characterized Italy's rugged terrain. In its ranks were world-famous skiers, tough woods-wise outdoorsmen and mountain climbers, many of whom later helped develop Colorado as a skier's mecca.

The division was activated at Camp Hale, Colo., named for Gen. Irving Hale, a West Pointer and commander of one of the organizations of Spanish-American War veterans that merged to form the VFW.

Entering combat in January, 1945, the division had won its laurels, shortly before Dole joined it, with victories over the Germans that opened the way to attack the Po Valley and Bologna.

Assigned as a platoon leader in Co. I, 85th Mountain Infantry, on Feb. 25, Dole led patrols and once was slightly wounded on one before the 10th's major assault on Hill 913 began on April 14. An hour after it started, Dole was so seriously shot up by shell fire that no one thought

he would live. Because medics were wounded themselves, it was nine hours before Dole arrived at an evacuation hospital.

Then followed a long and painful recovery in Army hospitals in Casablanca, Topeka, Kans., and Battle Creek, Mich. The shell fragment broke his collar bone and right arm and damaged his spine to the point that his arms and legs were paralyzed. For a year, Dole could not feed himself, and one of his kidneys had to be removed. In short, he was given only slight hope for recovery. Thanks to a then experimental drug, streptomycin, Dole gradually regained the ability to sit up, and he began a rigid regimen of physio-therapy to strengthen his legs and left arm and to do things for himself.

Throughout it all, Dole's ready wit and cheerfulness inspired his fellow patients, those who remember those days agree.

Then a patient suggested he visit Dr. Armen Kelikian, an Armenian-born neurosurgeon, who might be able to restore Dole's right arm and shoulder. Kelikian, whose brother had been killed in Italy, agreed to operate on Dole at no cost.

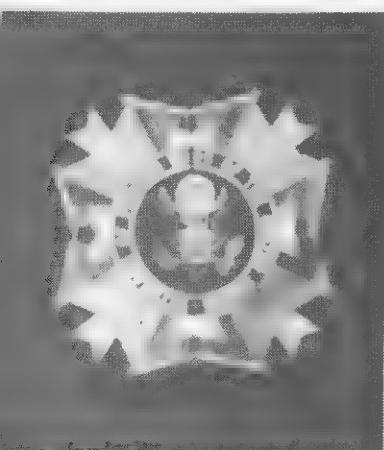
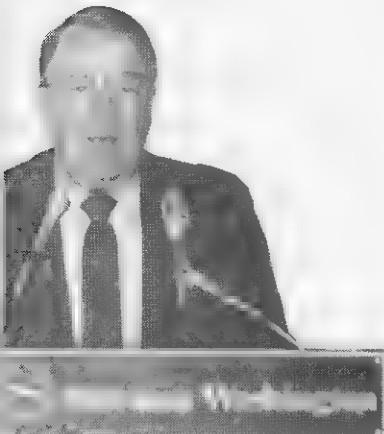
Although Dr. Kelikian would charge nothing for his services, still expenses had to be borne, and Post 6240 quickly launched a campaign to raise enough money to send Dole to Chicago, some \$2,000.

Three operations were required. The first was June 3, 1947; the second on Aug. 4, and the final one on Nov. 5. Part of his scapula was removed, neck muscles connected to his arm and his arm fused at the elbow. The paralysis in his shoulder nerves also was relieved. Use of his right arm had been restored 40%, and soon it was up to 70%.

Dole took up his studies at the University of Arizona and earned his law degree near home at Washburn University in Topeka. In no time after that, he began practicing law and soon was embarked on a political career.

Of Dole, Dr. Kelikian says, "He epitomized America to me. He had faith. I do what I can for the country both out of gratitude and out of respect."

"More major drug dealers have been indicted and convicted in the last three years than in the whole history of the United States," Meese said. "They are receiving 15, 20, 30 or 40 years in prison . . . We are taking the profit out of crime."



"But ultimately we have to stack up our responsibilities and our obligations. We have to stack up to the threat we face. And let's not kid ourselves, the threat is enormous. And then we have to pay whatever it takes to fulfill those responsibilities and meet those threats... Unless we provide adequately for our defense today, we will be paying later. In the lives and blood of American soldiers."

Dole said alliances are an important part of the nation's defense system, but American allies in Europe and the Japanese must assume a larger share of the cost of defense "as a reflection of their own greater prosperity and what is at stake for us all."

The cause of the freedom of the United States is enhanced, he continued, "whenever the forces of freedom can expand their frontiers.

"That is why I am proud to reaffirm my support for programs to aid freedom fighters around the world. My own freedom is directly connected to the outcome of the struggles of these others — of the Contras in Nicaragua, of Jonas Savimbi and his UNITA forces in Angola, of the struggle of the freedom fighters in Afghanistan and Kampuchea [Cambodia] and in many other corners of the globe."

Dole also voiced his support for President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative because it offers the possibility of an agreement with the Soviet Union on verifiable reductions in nuclear weapons on both sides.

"We cannot give away or legislate away our chance for a future less threatened with nuclear annihilation," he continued. "We cannot turn our backs now on the promise of SDI."

U.S. Atty. Gen. Edwin Meese expressed support for President Reagan's proposed 1988 VA budget, which he said is \$500 million higher than 1987's and gives priority to funding of the medical program.

Meese's principal concern, however, is with law enforcement and particularly with the war on drugs and terrorism. Fighting drugs, he said, requires a two-pronged stra-

tegy: education to prevent their use and action to dry up the source in countries where they originate, as in Bolivia.

"There are other things we are doing, too," he continued. "We are preventing the smuggling of illegal drugs on our coasts and across our boundaries. We have the cooperation in this of local sheriffs and police. And we are using innovative tactics."

Meese said an important aspect of combatting the drug traffic is the prosecution of drug dealers.

"More major drug dealers have been indicted and convicted in the last three years than in the whole history of the United States," he said. "They are receiving 15, 20, 30 or 40 years in prison. We are going after their property they have obtained as the result of their drug businesses. We are taking the profit out of crime."

A major program of eradication of marijuana and opium has been set in motion, he said, and has been expanded with the cooperation of the National Park Service.

"Our strong educational campaign concentrating on the health aspect of narcotics is starting to get across to the young people of the nation, right down to the grade schools.

"Our ultimate goal is a drug-free America. It is the most dangerous social problem in our society."

Early in the General Session, Ladies Auxiliary National President Rosemary Mazer presented Staab with \$70,000 as the second portion of the Auxiliary's \$140,000 contribution to VFW-Auxiliary joint programs and to help it achieve its goals for veterans and the nation as a whole.

"We are proud to be a part of the VFW," she said.

At its meeting Saturday, Feb. 28, the National Council of Administration approved National Awards and Citation Committee recommendations for awards to be presented at the 88th National Convention to be held in New Orleans.

They were Rep. Edward P. Boland (Mass.), the Americanism Award;



Sam Walton, chairman of the Wal-Mart Stores, the James E. Van Zandt, Citizenship Award; Gen. Bernard Rogers, retiring commander of NATO, the Dwight David Eisenhower Distinguished Service Award; Coach Eddie Robinson, of Grambling State University, the Hall of Fame Award, and S.H. Park, president of Hyundai Motors America, the Commander-in-Chief's Gold Medal of Merit.

Nominees for the Armed Forces, Space, J. Edgar Hoover and News Media Award have yet to be announced.

In addition to this committee, several other national committees reported.

Because of interest in the 1988 VA budget, the National Legislative Committee meeting attracted much attention since Rep. Solomon and VA Administrator Thomas K. Turnage were two of the principal speakers.

"Chairman Montgomery and I see eye to eye on the VA budget," Solomon said. They agreed on a 3.5% increase in compensation and DIC, and the two did not endorse the Reagan Administration's recommendation of indexing. Another is the New GI Bill, with basic funding by the VA because it is a readjustment program.

He predicted that an increase in the user fee for VA home loans will not materialize because of committee opposition.

VA nursing homes, domiciliary care for homeless veterans, treatment of AIDS victims and a broad range of other veterans' issues were covered in his remarks.

Solomon, author of the Solomon Amendment requiring young men to register for the draft before they can qualify for federal employment, was chairman of the House POW/-

MIA Task Force and visited Southeast Asia recently.

"It was through the efforts of the VFW that we have been able to keep this as a priority item," he said. "We have been able to keep the pressure on Vietnam, and we have made great progress. We have just gotten Vietnam to admit that live Americans might be there."

"I hope the day will come when we will get live Americans out, not just bodies."

Turnage told the committee that the VA and the VFW "have a commonality of interest" since both want to see that veterans receive the benefits intended for them.

"The 1988 VA budget is the highest in VA history, at a time when others are being curtailed," he said. "We fared well, and I know what the President thinks."

Turnage reviewed some of the highlights of the budget, although he added that the budget does not have everything the agency would like to have. He expressed optimism, however, that the VA would be able to continue to carry out its mission effectively.

At the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee meeting, Commander-in-Chief Staab said, "I am very proud of our security program."

He added that veterans' entitlements and national security go hand-in-hand.

Turning to internal VFW matters, he said that the organization now is on the threshold of its "most magnificent year," but everyone must work harder to reach the goals set at the beginning of the membership year.

"It is your obligation, my obligation and our obligation . . . to make this our 32nd year of continuous growth." ■

On the POW/MIA issue, Rep. Gerald Solomon said, "It was through the efforts of the VFW that we have been able to keep this as a priority item. We have been able to keep the pressure on Vietnam, and we have made great progress."



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A member of Post 6447, Thomas-ton, Ga., Nolan Presley, visited the grave of his brother in Normandy during World War II. First Lt. Herbert Presley landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944, with the 29th Division and fought on with the 29th to the outskirts of St. Lo where he was killed.

In a letter home, Lt. Presley wrote that, as he crossed the English Channel at dawn on D-Day, he saw the battleship USS Nevada firing its huge guns at German defenses on the Norman coast.

A third Presley brother, Emmett, was on board the Nevada during the invasion.



This photo of Nolan Presley at the grave of his brother in Normandy, taken Sept. 10, 1944, reminds World War II veterans of the end of the World War II in Europe in May, 1945, and the toll the fighting took.

After Nolan learned of his brother's death, he found in a temporary cemetery his freshly dug grave in Normandy, with his dogtags on the stake that served as an improvised headstone. The photo was taken by Nolan's sergeant who had concealed a camera under his jacket.

A Post's Special Pride

Post 3297, Delaware, Ohio, has only 327 members, but two of them earned the Medal of Honor. Not only are they members, but they are Life Members.

The two are Melvin Mayfield, a World War II veteran, and Ronald E.

Rosser, who served in the Korean War. Mayfield, a corporal in Co. D, 20th Infantry, 6th Infantry Division, received his for wiping out four Japanese positions on Luzon that had pinned down two Filipino companies. Despite being wounded, "he dauntlessly charged again into the face of pointblank fire to help destroy a hostile observation post," the citation recounts.

Rosser is one of 17 children. One was killed in Korea, and one was killed in Vietnam. He was a mortar man in the 38th Infantry, 2nd Infantry Division, when, as a forward observer with L Co., he charged enemy positions with only grenades and a carbine after heavy automatic weapons, small arms, artillery and mortar fire halted the riflemen. Three times he charged and killed at least 13 of the enemy. Although wounded, he made several trips through enemy fire to help remove men more seriously injured than he.

Post Anniversary

Post 3219, Phoebe, Va., marked its 52nd anniversary with a mustering-in ceremony for new members. A lone sentry kept a vigil at the comrades' tents. The grave was marked with Poppies and the headstone held the fallen comrade's helmet. Taps were sounded for all those who have gone on before. Post Commander Wayne Muth and Auxiliary President Katy Grassell released 52 balloons with messages and membership applications in each one.

Volunteer Honored

Tomas Barajas, a Life Member of Post 9173, El Paso, Texas, and paralyzed since a 1966 accident, recently completed 10,176 volunteer hours at the VA clinic in El Paso.

A member of the committee instrumental in opening the clinic, he began his VAVS work there in 1974. He also was active in the project that established a mural of Medal of Honor recipients on a clinic wall.

His accomplishments and positions in Post 9173 over the years are

continued on page 40

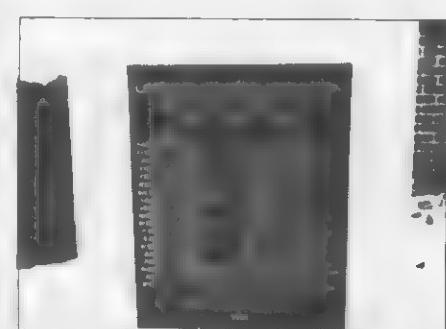
Korean Memorials



Dutchess County, N.Y., completed this monument in Poughkeepsie to the county's dead in both World Wars and the Korean and Vietnam Wars last August. Post 170 Life Members Kenneth C. Boshart, Sr. and John Cervone are credited with completing the two-year project.



Two years ago, Post 5083, Osco, Ill., dedicated this monument to the Korean War dead. It is in a park with monuments to the dead of the Civil, Spanish-American, World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War.



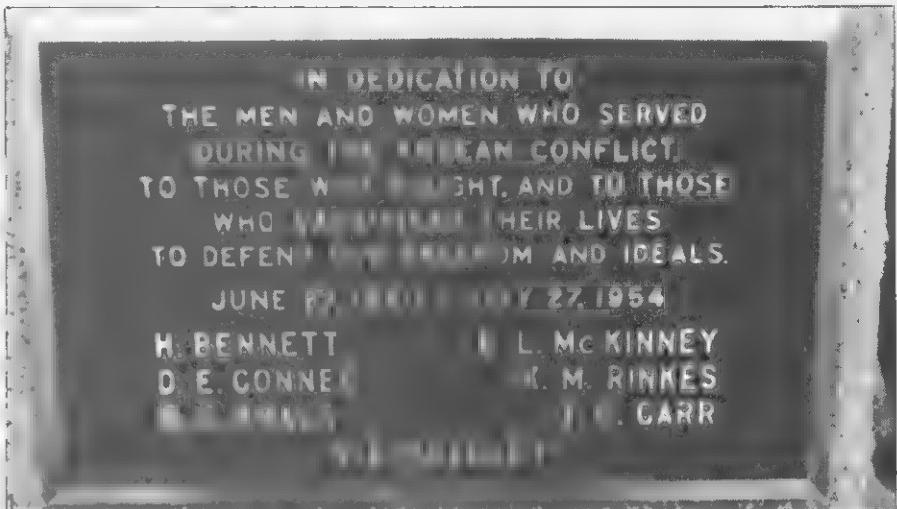
Korean and Vietnam War dead are honored by this monument erected by Post 2345 and Dads of Foreign Service Veterans of Post 67, of Cortland, N.Y., in September, 1981.

Korean War veterans often think of themselves as the "forgotten veterans," but as these pictures show, several communities in the United States have not allowed them or the comrades they left behind to be ignored.



Post and Auxiliary 3442 dedicated this memorial they built to honor all American veterans at the cemetery in Custer, S.D., on Veterans Day. A pole behind it also was straightened, refinished and erected. Post Commander is Lyle H. Duba, while Auxiliary President is Dolores Martinez.

Spearheaded by A.W. Tucker, of Post 1443, Clarkston, Wash., this monument to American veterans of all the nation's wars was dedicated last Memorial Day. A 22-foot flagpole rises from it and the Flag is flown every day. Commander Tucker, of District 10, recalls that no such memorial existed in the town until Post 1443 launched its campaign, and \$2,000 was raised from among local business and private donors.



Post 3613, Martins Ferry, Ohio, dedicated this Korean War memorial, honoring seven from there who were killed during the Korean War, on Memorial Day, 1985. It is across the street from the Post home.

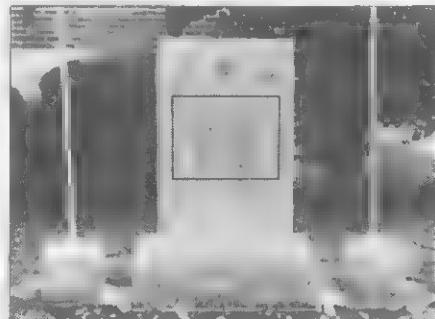


Versailles, Mo., remembers its three Korean War dead with this memorial in the City Cemetery. It was erected in 1960.

VFW National Chaplain Alfred Schneider speaks at the dedication of the Manitowoc County, Wis., Veterans Memorial, with separate monuments containing the names of the area's dead from the Civil War through the Vietnam War, including the Korean War.



Thanks to Post 5505, Forest City, Pa., the Arts Council, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, other veterans' organizations and private citizens, this monument to the area's Korean War and Vietnam War dead has been completed.



This monument to area men and women who served in the Korean War was dedicated last June in Emporium, Pa.



With the help of Post 3211, Hicksville, N.Y., and the school board, this Korean War monument was dedicated last Veterans Day on the junior high grounds.

continued from page 36

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numerous: District 10 Adjutant and Voice of Democracy program chairman; a member of the Department of Texas VOD Committee; appointment as National Aide-de-Camp; Department National Home Chairman, 1974-75; Commander of Post 9173 on eight different occasions; El Paso Veteran of the Year in 1969; El Paso United American Veterans Organization president for three non-consecutive years; and a finalist for the El Paso Herald Post Hero of the Year Award.

He supports St. Jude and St. Martin de Porres Churches in their programs and community projects.



Paralyzed since 1966, Tomas Barajas, a Life Member of Post 9173, El Paso, has completed 10,176 VAVS volunteer hours, but he has found time to do a lot more, too.

He also has assisted with the establishment of the Avenue of Flags program at Fort Bliss National Cemetery, been a Scoutmaster, taught beginning English to community citizenship classes, repairs wheelchairs and donates them in the name of Post 9173 and prepares his Post and District bulletins.

"Post 9173 and District 10 are

proud of and very grateful to have Comrade Barajas as a member of this great organization," writes Commander James E. Nier, of Texas's District 10.

To Honor the Dead

The color guard of Post 4903, Tucson, Ariz., is going to Europe at the end of the month to take part in D-Day anniversary observances in Normandy.

The color guard, called the Saguaro Sidewinders, hopes to visit the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, the Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial, and the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial.

At each stop, the Saguaro Sidewinders will pay the proper respect to the American dead interred in the cemeteries and to the missing whose names are inscribed on the memorials.

In those three cemeteries some 20,000 American war dead are buried, and it is possible, time permitting, the color guard will be able to visit additional American cemeteries.

Flags to Schools

A few months ago, a representative of the Goshen, Ohio, school district approached Post 5749 in Loveland, Ohio, with what seemed like an unusual request, at first.

In none of the classrooms of the elementary, middle and senior high schools was there a United States Flag, and because of financial problems in the district, there was no money to buy Flags.

In some instances, the students were using 5-inch by 3-inch Flags to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Post 5749 quickly donated 72 Flags measuring 3 feet by 5 feet to the school district, and the event was covered by WKRC television in Cincinnati.

"Perhaps, this endeavor on the part of Post 5749 will help to create a greater pride and love of country," Post Commander Richard G. Peron writes.

Persistence Paid Off

Soon after his first tour of duty in Vietnam, Kentuckian Timothy Bailey began to notice a stiffness and deformity of his left hand.

Similar symptoms in the right hand and left foot followed. Medical examinations revealed Dupuytren's contracture, a disease generally characterized by fixed flexion of fingers and toes. Corrective surgeries provided only temporary improvement.

Upon his release from active duty in November, 1973, Bailey contacted the VA Regional Office in Louisville to request service connection. This was granted, but in October, 1975, he notified the VA that the same impairment that had initially affected his hands and left foot had spread to his right foot. The medical evidence furnished seemed to substantiate this. The VA, however, did not agree. It ruled that right foot involvement was not shown in service and could not be considered a part

of the service-connected Dupuytren's contracture. The veteran did not pursue the matter further at that time.

One day in the fall of 1981, Bailey read an announcement in a local newspaper of a talk to area veterans in Newport, Ky., by Richard Mayhew, then Department Service Officer, on benefit programs.

He visited Mayhew to see what he could do to revive his claim for service connection. This turned out to be one of the best decisions he ever made, for he not only received advice but obtained Mayhew's assistance throughout the subsequent claims process.

Mayhew's first official act in the case was to challenge the 1975 decision by the VA Regional Office in Louisville. Unsuccessful, he guided Bailey through the appeals stage and won a review of the claim by the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) in Washington, D.C., and the allowance

of service connection.

Along the way, Mayhew raised a second issue, that of the veteran's inability to work because of a service-related disability. This issue was included in the BVA review, but it was returned to the Louisville office for additional medical records. Once these were obtained, the VA conceded that Bailey was totally disabled. The result was payment of \$40,000 in back entitlements and monthly benefits of more than \$1,300 and a clothing allowance.

Bailey sums up his feelings toward Mayhew and the VFW this way: "No one can ever express in words the difference this has made in my life. Although there is no cure for my medical problem, this award without a doubt has made my life a lot better."

"I again thank Dick and the splendid organization for the effort and the comradeship." ■

The Original

Gut Buster™

Flatten your stomach in just minutes a day!



Amazing Gut Buster™ turns ordinary sit-ups into tummy tightening power stretches.

Yes, this gutsy little machine speeds you from fat to flat!

Gut Buster is specifically designed to firm and flatten the stomach as nothing else can. Get back that flat stomach you had in high school—even though you thought those days were gone forever.

This extraordinary exerciser turns ordinary sit-ups into tummy tightening power stretches. Gals, Gut Buster is so tough on tummies you quickly get in perfect shape for snug jeans, knits and swim suits. Guys can trade those bulging bellies for sexy, sensuous muscle—fast!

NO COMPACT IT TRAVELS ANYWHERE

Durable, no-nonsense construction makes Gut Buster the only stomach exerciser you'll ever need. Yet, it's so compact you can take it wherever you go. Pop it in your suitcase for

trimming when you travel. Use it while you watch TV, at the office—anywhere—anytime you have a few minutes to spare.

Forget about gyms, expensive rowing machines and wasted energy on exercises you don't need. If your stomach is the problem, Gut Buster is your answer!

NO RISK GUARANTEE

Don't settle for anything but the original Gut Buster. You risk nothing when you order. You must see a flat-as-a-pancake stomach or return it within 30 days for a full refund of your purchase price.

Go ahead Gut Busters, order today to get your stomach flat and keep it like that!

ORDER TOLL FREE

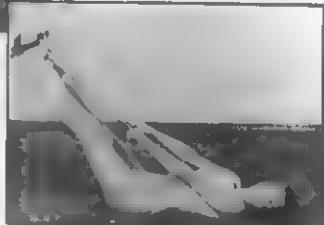
Credit card customers don't wait any longer to get a flat stomach. Call toll free today: 1-800-255-4321 Ask for operator 1795.

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◀ Gut Buster power-assisted sit-ups work the upper abdominal region...

...Reverse, for tension-assisted high risers that work magic on lower stomach muscles. ▼



MAIL NO RISK COUPON TODAY

YES, I want to flatten my stomach in just minutes a day! Please send me Gut Busters ordered below. I understand that I must be delighted or return it within 30 days for a refund (less shipping & handling). EXTRA RUSH SERVICE: I'm in a hurry. I'm enclosing an extra \$1 for special handling and printing the word "RUSH" on the front of my envelope.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Gut Buster | only \$19.95 + \$2.00 postage |
| YOU SAVE \$6.00 WHEN YOU ORDER TWO | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Gut Busters | only \$34.90 + \$4.00 postage |
| (Ohio residents add 6% sales tax—Any order outside Continental U.S. send \$5 shipping & handling per unit and allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery) (Canadian Residents: Please send \$29.95 + \$3 shipping & handling to 56 Bramalee Rd., Unit 8, Brampton, Ontario L6W3N4) | |

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Account No. _____

OR- CHARGE IT! By Toll Free Phone:
1-800-255-4321 Ask for operator 1795

Name _____ (please print clearly)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Gut Buster • Dept. H-1795
2000 National Blvd., Canton, Ohio 44780

MEMBERSHIP

February Commanders-of-the-Month

DEPARTMENT



DIV. III
Indiana
Leo Reller (2)



DIV. VI
Mississippi
A.O. Cummings (4)



DIV. IX
Vermont
Merritt Edwards (3)



DIV. I
Ohio
William G. Smith (3)



DIV. IV
Maryland
Newman T. Brasten (6)



DIV. VII
Colorado
Darrell D. Elliott (6)



DIV. X
Delaware
Joseph L. Eckrich, Sr. (5)



DIV. II
Michigan
Irving Wendt (3)



DIV. V
Nebraska
C.C. Blankinship (6)



DIV. VIII
South Dakota
William H. Tarrell (5)



DIV. XI
Hawaii
Frank A. Candalisa

POST

DIV. I
Post 1114
Indiana
Lawrence Montgomery (6)

DIV. III
Post 3962
Mississippi
John Graham (6)

DIV. V
Post 6590
New Jersey
Donnie C. Wine

DIV. VII
Post 8510
Minnesota
John L. Shallowe (6)

DIV. IX
Post 5040
Illinois
John R. Hanson (4)

DIV. XI
Post 5951
Louisiana
Sylvain L. Duet (4)

DIV. XIII
Post 10093
Florida
Lester W. Davis (2)

DIV. XV
Post 4517
Arkansas
Millie Seal (2)

DIV. XVII
Post 10427
Texas
Joseph Schumaker (5)

DIV. XIX
Post 5562
Alaska
Dan Wisner

DIV. II
Post 112
Kansas
Blair Page (2)

DIV. IV
Post 2562
Maryland
Tomas F. Bunting (5)

DIV. VI
Post 1786
Kansas
Francis C. William (3)

DIV. VIII
Post 534
Missouri
Lavern Snyders

DIV. X
Post 834
Nebraska
Roland E. Hild (2)

DIV. XII
Post 5865
Pennsylvania
Acie Marksberry, Jr.

DIV. XIV
Post 1298
Kentucky
Edward Liggett (2)

DIV. XVI
Post 7108
Texas
John Adams (4)

DIV. XVIII
Post 4976
Mississippi
Billy Palmer (6)

DIV. XX
Post 1319
Oklahoma
James Schutte (6)

DISTRICT

DIV. I
District 8
Indiana
Paul Roseberry (6)

DIV. II
District 10
Michigan
Jack Potes

DIV. III
District 17
California
John D. Smith (3)

DIV. IV
District 13
Michigan
Gordon Bachman (4)

DIV. V
District 13
Mississippi
Roy Colston (6)

DIV. VI
District 12
Mississippi
Don Pennington

DIV. VII
District 2
Maryland
Francis GIII (6)

DIV. VIII
District 17
Maryland
Joseph W. Nassar (3)

DIV. IX
District 9
California
Ronald L. White

DIV. X
District 7
Louisiana
Albert R. Meche

(Figure in parentheses indicates number of times Commander has won this honor.)

Posts of 1,000 Members or More

Recorded as of February 24, 1987

Post	Place No.	Location	Membership	Post	Place No.	Location	Membership	Post	Place No.	Location	Membership	Post	Place No.	Location	Membership
1	1114	Evansville, IN	4269	41	2704	South Omaha, NE	1539	81	501	Denver, CO	1305	121	1435	Spokane, WA	1112
2	3579	Park Ridge, IL	2734	42	3962	Corinth, MS	1530	82	4848	Chattanooga, TN	1304	122	2093	Orlando, FL	1099
3	5555	Richfield, MN	2622	43	1650	Topeka, KS	1528	83	972	Terre Haute, IN	1303	123	6694	Dundalk MD	1098
4	628	Sioux Falls, SD	2580	44	7119	Indianapolis, IN	1522	84	2012	Abilene, TX	1299	124	7069	Clarks Summit, PA	1094
5	1146	St Clair Shores, MI	2574	45	7330	Oakville, CT	1520	84	6896	Detroit, MI	1299	125	2130	Lake Charles, LA	1091
6	2539	Gulfport MS	2264	46	641	Columbia, SC	1495	85	1857	Oklahoma City, OK	1287	126	9972	Sierra Vista, AZ	1087
7	360	Mishawaka, IN	2204	47	5832	St. Louis Park, MN	1489	87	1990	Greeneville, TN	1284	126	8919	El Paso, TX	1087
8	1308	Alton, IL	2189	48	7987	New Port Richey, FL	1474	88	3838	Cape Girardeau, MO	1263	128	788	Cedar Rapids, IA	1086
9	47	Unontown, PA	2134	49	4372	Odessa, TX	1473	89	3790	Logansport, IN	1260	129	2496	Alpena, MI	1084
10	1064	Huntington, WV	2075	50	1736	Alexandria, LA	1456	90	53	Jamestown, NY	1257	130	9186	San Antonio, TX	1083
11	6508	Rosedale, MD	2059	51	4087	Davison, MI	1441	91	1216	Austin, MN	1253	130	639	Malden, MA	1083
12	1273	Rapid City, SD	2053	52	6874	Lemon Grove, CA	1440	92	6827	St Petersburg, FL	1248	132	1720	Grand Rapids, MN	1082
13	1296	Bloomington, MN	2050	53	6251	Cheektowaga, NY	1435	93	137	Duluth, MN	1245	133	2743	Norwalk, OH	1080
14	49	Mobile, AL	2014	54	1621	Janesville, WI	1433	94	1639	Willmar, MN	1240	134	577	Tulsa, OK	1076
15	131	Lincoln, NE	2003	55	1003	Jefferson City, MO	1426	95	733	Mason City, IA	1236	135	425	Hopkins, MN	1072
16	401	Albuquerque, NM	1828	56	9223	Arlington, CA	1423	96	762	Fargo, ND	1233	136	1271	Central Falls, RI	1070
17	2290	Manville, NJ	1814	57	2529	Sandusky, OH	1414	97	2346	Saugus, MA	1222	137	1474	Spokane, WA	1066
18	3382	Kingsport, TN	1801	58	1432	Salina, KS	1413	98	1120	Indianapolis, IN	1212	138	1154	Lafayette, IN	1062
19	112	Wichita, KS	1768	59	6796	Dallas, TX	1412	99	305	Eau Claire, WI	1210	139	9337	Gastonia, NC	1052
20	283	Kingston, PA	1757	60	3851	Carmi, IL	1409	100	2562	Silver Spring, MD	1208	140	5108	Marietta, OH	1050
21	8704	Mechanicsburg, PA	1742	61	447	Albert Lea, MN	1407	101	1115	Hillsville, VA	1200	146	2785	Albany, GA	1050
22	249	Butler, PA	1738	62	2940	W Seneca, NY	1384	102	5206	Hendersonville, NC	1198	142	3368	Mt Pleasant, PA	1039
23	1275	Lima, OH	1724	63	1810	Brentwood, PA	1378	103	4488	Grenada, MS	1195	143	8463	Cape Coral, FL	1038
24	988	Tacoma, WA	1701	64	3777	Festus, MO	1374	104	4809	Norfolk, VA	1192	143	4999	Sayreville, NJ	1038
25	2503	Omaha, NE	1669	65	1000	Independence, MO	1370	105	668	Birmingham, AL	1191	145	755	Springfield, IL	1033
26	379	Yakima, WA	1668	66	832	S Portland ME	1358	106	6240	Russell, KS	1178	146	1201	Ponca City, OK	1031
27	5263	Fort Sill OK	1663	67	10209	Spring Hill, FL	1355	106	4051	Colorado Sprgs, CO	1178	147	2148	Waco, TX	1030
28	1599	Chambersburg, PA	1649	68	2754	West View, PA	1353	106	3376	Ephrata, PA	1169	148	155	Johnstown, PA	1029
29	6975	Bristol, VA	1647	69	891	Asheville, NC	1353	108	1848	Jackson, TN	1167	149	1212	Parkersburg, WV	1025
30	9619	Morningside, MD	1843	70	5225	W Memphis, AR	1339	109	9083	Baltimore, MD	1167	150	673	Jasper, IN	1012
31	4057	Tupelo, MS	1634	70	4903	Tucson, AZ	1339	111	1536	Sayre, PA	1168	151	1087	Great Falls, MT	1010
32	6640	Metairie, LA	1632	72	9400	Sunnyslope, AZ	1332	112	589	Hazleton, PA	1165	152	701	Lansing, MI	1008
33	367	Joliet, IL	1610	73	2702	Huntsville, AL	1325	113	1475	Amarillo, TX	1159	153	950	Mankato, MN	1007
34	2100	Everett, WA	1608	74	1865	Kenosha, WI	1323	114	1863	Solon, OH	1149	154	1644	Norfolk, NE	1006
35	549	Tucson, AZ	1594	75	1580	Daytona Beach, FL	1322	115	4075	Frankfort, KY	1141	154	3982	Santa Clara, CA	1006
36	1079	Elyria, OH	1590	76	23	Lebanon, PA	1318	116	2111	Chula Vista, CA	1139	156	8795	Adamstown, PA	1003
37	8541	San Antonio, TX	1581	77	428	Saint Cloud, MN	1314	117	1893	New Albany, IN	1122	156	6590	Wrightstown, NJ	1003
38	1989	Indiana PA	1576	78	295	S St Paul, MN	1313	118	2640	Wallington NJ	1121	156	3553	Chester, IL	1003
39	573	Clarksburg, WV	1560	79	2199	Joliet, IL	1311	119	1326	Bismarck, ND	1120	156	6712	Revere, MA	1001
40	1	Denver, CO	1556	80	7175	Millington, TN	1310	120	3074	Lexington, NC	1117	160	1383	Klamath Falls, OR	1000

Order of Parade

Standings are based on per capita tax transmittals received at National Headquarters through February 28, 1987

NATIONAL AVERAGE — 94.81%

1	HAWAII	102.44	15	Ohio	96.13	29	Idaho	93.69	43	Kentucky	91.58
2	Panama Canal	100.99	16	Colorado	95.21	30	Oregon	93.62	44	South Carolina	91.56
3	Indiana	98.75	17	Missouri	95.19	31	New Jersey	93.56	45	Tennessee	91.49
4	Delaware	98.23	18	North Dakota	95.18	32	Nevada	93.39	46	Massachusetts	91.28
5	Mississippi	98.16	19	Virginia	95.14	33	Pennsylvania	93.38	47	Alabama	91.02
6	Kansas	97.92	20	Illinois	95.02	34	New Hampshire	93.32	48	Texas	91.00
7	Michigan	97.43	21	Rhode Island	94.84	35	New York	93.05	49	New Mexico	90.79
8	Nebraska	97.38	22	Maine	94.38	36	Oklahoma	93.04	50	Pacific Area	89.29
9	Maryland	97.22	23	Wyoming	94.28	37	Washington	92.90	51	District of Columbia	89.00
10	Wisconsin	97.00	24	Florida	94.14	38	Connecticut	92.71	52	Utah	86.78
11	Minnesota	96.89	25	West Virginia	94.08	39	North Carolina	92.62	53	Alaska	77.40
12	South Dakota	96.34	26	Louisiana	94.05	40	Iowa	92.45	54	Europe	55.20
13	Vermont	98.17	27	Arizona	93.91	41	Montana	92.16			
14	California	96.16	28	Georgia	93.75	42	Arkansas	92.12			

The following VFW members have distinguished themselves by qualifying for the Century Award. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 100 new and/or reinstated members. Jack E Morris, Post 266, Anderson, Ind.; Rusty Carmichael, Post 5896, Farmington, Mo.; F. Glen Hawkins, Post 5483, Mars Hill, N.C., Frank Boroz, Post 9520, Brunswick, Ohio, and J.R. "Bob" Folch, Post 9186, San Antonio, Texas.



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MEMBER BENEFITS

VFW Emblem & Supply Merchandise

As a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, you may buy emblematic merchandise and personal products from the Emblem and Supply Department which offers more than 1,000 items for sale to our members.

Every year a new 62-page catalogue is published and sent to all Post Quartermasters and District and State Officers during the month of August. In 1986, this full color catalogue was offered to any member for the small charge of \$2.50 to cover postage and handling. The member also received in each catalogue a coupon worth \$2.50 off the first purchase of \$10 or more.

The overwhelming response to this offer from members indicated VFW members wanted to see more of what was available to them.

You may purchase any item in the Emblem and Supply catalogue by convenient mail order. Your personal

check will be accepted, or if it is more convenient, you can pay with Visa or Mastercard.

As in the past, you may ask your Post Quartermaster to use his catalogue, and he will assist you in ordering. If you would like, however, to

have your own catalogue to refer to all year, you can send in the accompanying coupon with \$2.50. Remember, you will not receive your new catalogue until August, 1987. Inside your catalogue will be a coupon for \$2.50 off your first purchase. ■

NAME _____	ADDRESS _____	STATE _____	ZIP _____
CITY _____	PHONE _____	POST # _____	
VFW MEMBERSHIP # _____ (if available)			
QTY. _____	STOCK # 8883	DESCRIPTION catalog	PRICE \$2.50
Missouri Residents Add 6.225% Sales Tax			
Make Checks Payable to Veterans of Foreign Wars, OR CHARGE IT.			
M.C. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
VISA <input type="checkbox"/>			
Expiration Date: Month _____			
Mail to: VFW Emblem & Supply Dept. 406 W. 34th Street Kansas City, MO 64111			
SIGNATURE _____			

Small Company's New Golf Ball Flies Too Far; Could Obsolete Many Golf Courses

Pro Hits 400-Yard Tee Shots During Test Round

Want To Shoot An Eagle or Two?

By Mike Henson

MERIDEN, CT — A small golf company in Connecticut has created a new, super ball that flies like a U-2, puts with the steady roll of a cue ball and bites the green on approach shots like a dropped cat. But don't look for it on weekend TV. Long-hitting pros could make a joke out of some of golf's finest courses with it. One pro who tested the ball drove it 400 yards, reaching the green on all but the longest par-fours. Scientific tests by an independent lab using a hitting machine prove the ball out-distances all major brands dramatically.

The ball's extraordinary distance comes partly from a revolutionary new dimple design that keeps the ball aloft longer. But there's also a secret change in the core that makes it rise faster off the clubhead. Another change reduces air drag. The result is a ball that gains altitude quickly, then sails like a glider. None of the changes is noticeable in the ball itself.

Despite this extraordinary performance the company has a problem. A spokesman put it this way: "In golf you need endorsements and TV publicity. This is what gets you in the pro shops and stores where 95% of all golf products are sold. Unless the pros use your ball on TV, you're virtually locked out of these outlets.

TV advertising is too expensive to buy on your own, at least for us.

"Now, you've seen how far this ball can fly. Can you imagine a pro using it on TV and eagle-ing par-fours? It would turn the course into a par-three, and real men don't play par-three's. This new fly-power forces us to sell it without relying on pros or pro-shops. One way is to sell it direct from our plant. That way we can keep the name printed on the ball a secret that only a buyer would know. There's more to golf than tournaments, you know."

The company guarantees a golfer a prompt refund if the new ball doesn't cut five to ten strokes off his or her average score. Simply return the balls — new or used — to the address below. "No one else would dare do that," boasted the company's director.

If you would like an eagle or two, here's your best chance yet. Write your name and address and "Code Name S" (the ball's R&D name) on a piece of paper and send it along with a check (or your credit card number and expiration date) to National Golf Center (Dept. H-437), 500 S. Broad St., Meriden, CT 06450. Or phone 203-238-2712, 9-5 Eastern time. No P.O. boxes, all shipments are UPS. One dozen "S" balls cost \$21.95 (plus \$1.95 shipping), two to five dozen are only \$19.00 each, six dozen are only \$99.00. You save \$43.00 ordering six. Shipping is free on two or more dozen. Specify white or Hi-Vision yellow.

GENERAL ORDERS

continued from page 45

San Carlos Park, Fla.; Post 5061, Denver, Colo.; Post 5560, Millersburg, Ohio; Post 5576, Beallsville, Ohio; Post 5950, Spanish Lake, Mo.; Post 5962, Milan Mo.; Post 5971, Pacific, Mo.; Post 6116, Manville, R.I.; Post 6127, North Branch, Mich.; Post 6135, Byron, Ill.; Post 6181, Goodrich, Mich.; Post 6186, Bellinger, Wis.; Post 6229, Rockport, Ind.; Post 6230, Rising Sun, Ind.; Post 6234, Milan, Ind.; Post 6312, Doylestown, Ohio; Post 6323, New Straitsville, Ohio; Post 6379, West Salem, Ohio; Post 6387, New Matamoras, Ohio; Post 6458, Tulsa, Okla.; Post 6911, Poteau, Okla., and Post 8505, Elkton, Ore.

By Command of
Norman G. Staab
Commander-in-Chief

OFFICIAL
Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.
Adjutant General

C LA I M S

Readers are urged to help these veterans seeking claim substantiation statements. Submit claims assistance requests to VFW Magazine, Claims, 406 W. 34 St., Kansas City MO 64111.

ALL BRANCHES

7th AF, 318th Fighter Sq., 73rd Fighter Sqd.—Seeking Frank Cleski, & Frederick Fenton—Raymond Wilson, RFD 1 Box 179, Wellsburg WV 26070.
4th Emergency Rescue Sqdn. (Iwo Jima)—Seeking anyone who remembers when I hurt my back, especially Bud Richardson, O'Hern, Bradley, Roger Anderson & Dunlap—John Malloy, 3339 Jefferson, Ogden UT 84403.

Radar Operators School, (Boca Raton, FL & Alamogordo, NM)—Seeking former members, especially Paul Uptagraff, Nate Tilley & Arthur Wiggins—Robert Peacock, VA Med. Center, 1900 E. Main, Danville IL 61832.

McCloskey Gen. Hosp.—Seeking a veteran named Bill who had a friend, Cadet Nurse Bunkley, or any amputees that were there—Orville Martin, 2810 Hayward Rd., Louisville KY 40222.

ARMY

4th Inf. Div., 1st Bde., 4th M.P. Co., 4th Pltn., (Vietnam)—Seeking anyone who remembers my jeep accident on or around 11/69, especially Dennis Jones, Walter Bonzo & Jimmie Ernest—Stephen Lefferts, 411 Adelia, Springfield IL 62704.

528th Trans. Det., (Vietnam)—Seeking anyone in unit—Don Tuohy, PO Box 122, Longville MN 56655.

14th Armored Div., 123rd Army Engrs. Co. B.—Seeking anyone who remembers me during our 4 months basic training in Champ Chaffee, Arkansas from 12/3/42—David Stentiford, 73 N. Worcester St., Norton MA 02766.

48th CA Bn. (July, 1944)—Seeking anyone who remembers when I injured my head during amphibious training—Ralph Dotson, 1909 Clement St., Joliet IL 60436.

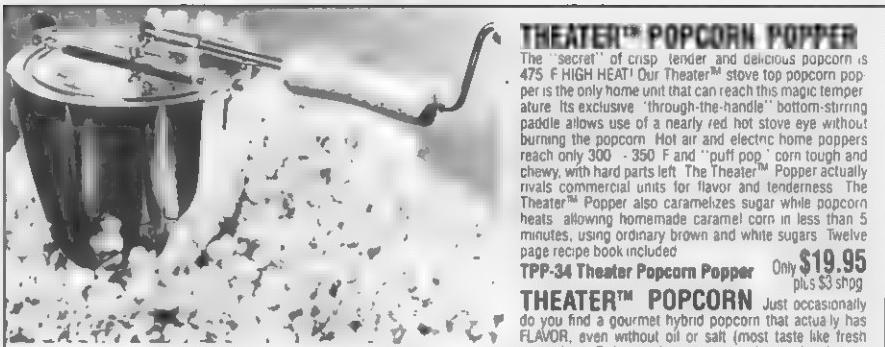
802nd Engr. Avn. Bn., Co. C., (Korea)—Seeking anyone who remembers when I was injured when the roof collapsed—Lyle Rutger, Rt. 1 Box 129, Fairfield IL 62837.

11th Armored Cav., K-Troop, 3rd Pltn., (Vietnam)—Seeking to hear from anyone who remembers my truck accident—William Harcus, Rt. 1 Box 288, Caryville FL 32427.

1st Gen. Hosp., (Paris, France, WWII)—Seeking 1st Lt. Sadawich to verify my back condition—Earl Howard, RD 2 Box 18, New Florence PA 15944.

550th AB Inf., Co. B.—Seeking anyone who remembers when Henry Charles Wintz joined Co. B. on D-Day as a scout & interpreter—Harvey Wallace, PO Box 761, Bridgeport WV 26330.

continued on page 48



THEATER® POPCORN POPPER

The "secret" of crisp tender and delicious popcorn is 475°F HIGH HEAT! Our Theater™ stove top popcorn popper is the only home unit that can reach this magic temperature. Its exclusive "through-the-handle" bottom-stirring paddle allows use of a nearly red hot stove eye without burning the popcorn. Hot air and electric home poppers reach only 300° - 350°F and "puff pop" corn tough and chewy, with hard parts left. The Theater™ Popper actually rivals commercial units for flavor and tenderness. The Theater™ Popper also caramelizes sugar while popcorn heats allowing homemade caramel corn in less than 5 minutes, using ordinary brown and white sugars. Twelve page recipe book included.

TPP-34 Theater Popcorn Popper Only \$19.95 plus \$3 shpg

THEATER® POPCORN Just occasionally do you find a gourmet hybrid popcorn that actually has FLAVOR, even without oil or salt (most taste like fresh moon hay). Feinknor's theater popcorn has such a distinctive flavor further, it pops up BIG and HUGE (especially in a 450°F Theater Popper) FLUFFY and TENDER! It's especially bred to combine several desirable characteristics. Try it once...and you're hooked for life!

TC-203 Theater Popcorn One 32 oz. Bag for \$3.95 plus \$1 shpg **SAVE! TWO 32 oz. Bags for \$7.50 plus \$1.25 shpg**
Send Check or M.O. 20 day money back guarantee.

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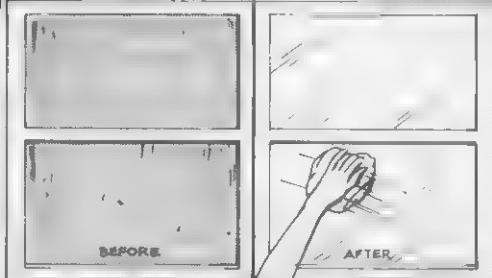


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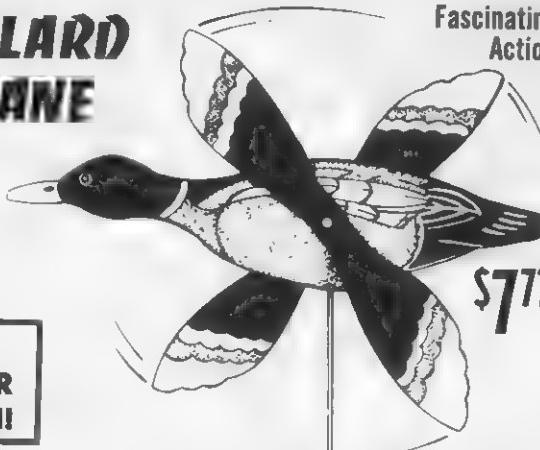
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CLAIMS

continued from page 47

5th Inf. Div., 11th Regt., 2nd Ptn., 1st Sqd., Co. C. (WWII)—Seeking anyone who remembers when Paul Luster was wounded—Edward Albany, 708 N. Race Street, Glasgow KY 42141.

11th AB Div., 2nd Btry., 511th Inf. Regt., Co. H., (Camp Campbell KY)—Seeking anyone who remembers my parachute accident, especially Lt. Cl. John Lattin—Ervin Marsh, 5578 Bayshore Dr., Memphis TN 38115. **29th Inf. Div., 175th Inf. Co. G**—Seeking Coleman Logan Harding—Russell Beverly, Rt. 4, Kingsport TN 37660.

3rd Div., 19th Regt., 2nd Bn., Co. H—Seeking anyone, who remembers my injuries after a direct hit on my position by an 88mm shell, especially Sgt. Snuffy—John Wisniewski, 3198 S. Uber St., Philadelphia PA 19145.

MARINES

3rd Mar. Div., (Two Jims)—Seeking anyone who remembers when I was stabbed & hit with a grenade—Ted Blyshak, 220 McNary St., McMurray PA 15317.

1st Mar. Div., 3rd Bn., Co. I—Seeking anyone who remembers when I injured my shoulders during a patrol in Vietnam—Eugene Ensor, 535 Jeff Grimes Blvd., DeSoto TX 76115-4653.

1st Mar. Div., 1st Bn., 11th Regt., Btry. A—Seeking anyone who remembers when I injured my back while body surfing—Homer Draughn, 201 Cedar Ave., El Centro CA 92243.

NAVY

Unit 3, LSU Sqdn. (Yokosuka, Japan: 1950-51 & Unit 4, Svc. Craft NAVFEE Pusan, Korea: 1950-51)—Seeking anyone who can verify my back and leg injury—James Worm, 1801 E. 4th St. Box 21, Clovis NM 88101.

US Navy AF, Hedron FAW 7, (England, 1943)—Seeking anyone who remembers when I was sent to the hospital, especially William Crone—George William Jones, 5601 Howard, Omaha NE 68106.

All Navy Personnel in Operation Sandstone in Eniwetok Atoll Marshall Islands: 1948—Seeking anyone who has been ill & can name the ship they were aboard—John Topian, 2701 Joseph Hooker St., Hopewell VA 23860.

301st NCB, (Guam)—Seeking anyone who remembers my back injury, especially James Keefe—Norbert Kayser, Box 32, Emery SD 57332.

USS Lotberg, (March, 1948)—Seeking anyone who remembers when number 2 gun mount missed the stop and the muzzle blast knocked the bridge crew to the deck—Robert Frey, SM 2 RD 3 Box 220, Cogan Station PA 17728.

REUNIONS

Reunion announcements are published as a cost-free service to VFW members in good standing. To ensure timely inclusion of your announcement, all information pertaining to the event must arrive in VFW Magazine offices six months prior to the reunion. Reunion announcement forms must be used and can be obtained by writing VFW Magazine, Reunions, 34th and Broadway, Kansas City MO 64111. Publication is limited to one time per calendar year.

AIR FORCE

5th AF, HQ & HQ, 314th Composite Wing—July, Nashville TN—Bob Kendall, Box 36372, Louisville KY 40232.

5th AF, 22nd BS., (SW Pacific)—July, Oshkosh WI—Bill Boelke, 527 Washington Ave., Oshkosh WI 54901.

5th AF, 48th Svc. Cp. HQ & HQ Sqdn. & Svc. Sqdns. (WWII)—Sept., Montpelier OH—S.L. Clark, Rt. 3, Montpelier OH 43543.

7th AF, 588th Sig. Aircraft Warning Bn.—Sept., St. Louis—Edward Zoladz, 7214 N. Kedvale Ave., Lincolnwood IL 60646.

8th AF Historical Society, (Minnesota Chapter)—Aug., St. Paul MN—Richard Greer, Box 13208, Roseville MN 55113.

8th AF, 34th BG, (WWII)—Sept., King of Prussia PA—Ray Summa, 2910 Bittersweet Ln., Anderson IN 46011.

8th AF, 351st BG (H), 508th, 509th, 510th & 511th Sqdns., (Polebrook, England, WWII)—July, Norfolk VA—Ben Schohan, 398 Catawba Ave., Westerville OH 43081.

8th AF—Sept., Long Beach CA—Ev Blakely, 10860 Crebs Ave., Northridge CA 91326.

8th AF, 368th BG.—Sept., Arlington VA—William Rader, 1108 Key Dr., Alexandria VA 22302.

9th AF, 367th Fighter Gp., 392nd, 393rd & 394th Fighter Sqdns., (WWII)—Aug., Colorado Springs CO—Jack Curtis, 437 Cedar Dr., Beaver Shores, Rogers AR 72756.

8th AF, 454th Bomb Sqn., 323rd BG.—Sept., Washington D.C.—Joe Havrilla, 1208 Margaret St., Munhall PA 15120

13th AF, 29th Air Svc. Sq.—July, Northwood OH—Frank Pace, 315 W. 15th St., Dover OH 44622.

13th AF, 71st Svc. Sqn.—July, Denver—John DeFrance, 4720 Federal Blvd., Denver CO 80211.

41st Radio Sqn. Mobile & 7011th Personnel Processing Sqn., (1951-54)—Aug., Kansas City MO—Virgil Holcomb, 818 W. Downing St., Tahlequah OK 74464.

46th TCS, 317th Sq.—Aug., Columbus OH—Richard Brown, 509 Clay St., Carey OH 43316.

47th Fighter Sqn.—Aug., Lancaster PA—Cletus Hamm, 3429 Raymond St., Laureldale PA 19605.

58th Bomb Wing Assn.—Aug., Las Vegas—Ray Tolzmann, 206 Maple Terr., Port Charlotte FL 33952.

68th T.C. Sqn.—July, Fort Wayne IN—John Davis, 170 Riverside DR., Huntington IN 46750.

78th Air Rescue Sqn.—Sept., Honolulu—Don Searle, 4932 Arbor Ridge, San Antonio TX 78228.

81st T.C. Sqn.—Sept., Portsmouth NH—T.W. Bonecutter, 620 Randolph St., Wilmington OH 45177.

82nd Fighter Sq., (WWII)—Sept., Boise ID—Dick Lingenfelter, PO Box 5541, Boise ID 83705.

98th BG. (N), (WWII)—Sept., Colorado Springs—Joel Bunch, 8730 Guilford Ave., Indianapolis IN 46240.

308th Sqn., 31st Sq.—Sept., Pueblo CO—Ralph Apple, Box 41, Crowley CO 81033.

313th T.C., 47th T.C. Sqn.—July, Madison WI—Donald Haffeman, Rt. 1, Box 245A, Princeton WI 54968.

339th Svc. Sqn.—Sept., Niagara Falls NY—Stanley Stachowski, 2030 Clinton St., Buffalo NY 14206.

341st Fighter Sqn., (WWII)—Sept., St. Louis—Tony Gibbons, 18 Burgundy Dr., Lake St. Louis MO 63367.

365th BG.—July, Dayton OH—Earl Cole, Box 289, Barbourville KY 40906

388th Bomb Gp.—July, San Antonio TX—George Hilliard, 7841 Quartermaine Ave., Cincinnati OH 45236

405th Fighter Gp., 509th 510th & 511th Fighter Sqdns., (WWII)—Sept., Colorado Springs CO—R.G. Nolte, 9326 Sturbridge, San Antonio TX 78250.

442nd AF Reserve Assn.—July, Richards Gebaur AFB MO—Joe Blair, 3214 E. 104th St., Kansas City MO 64137.

448th BG—Sept., Colorado Springs—Richard Downey, 4859 Stanhope Dr., St. Louis MO 63128.

452nd Bomb Wing (L)—Aug., Los Alamitos CA—Gene Hoffman, PO Box 3785, Long Beach CA 90803.

457th Sub-Depot, 359th Air Engineering, 84th Svc. Sqn., 85th BG., (WWII, Norham, England)—Sept., Colorado Springs—Adam Hinojos, PO Box 372, Lemoore CA 93245

458th BG.—Sept., Riverside CA—John Devney, 90 Kimbark Rd., Rochester NY 14610.

467th BG (N), (WWII)—July—Henry Hughey, 1529 Delia Dr., Decatur GA 30033.

558th Bomb Sqn. (N), 307th BG.—Sept., Dayton OH—Lovell Turner, Rt. 3, Box 84, Lawrenceville IL 62439.

584th JASCO—Aug., Chicago—Homer Grunz, 6013 5th Ave. S., Minneapolis MN 55419.

632nd Aviation Engrs. BN.—July, Kansas City KS—William Kratz, 5 Chickadee Dr., Terre Haute IN 47803.

1603rd MATS, (Japan, 1950-54)—Aug., Dayton OH—Lloyd Lucus, 3128 Stoney Dr., Lafayette IN 47905.

1722th SM, (WWII)—Aug., Oklahoma City—Leo Hazaleus, RR 1, Newkirk OK 74647.

1905th Engr. Aviation BN—Aug., Milwaukee—Mathew Fisher, 600 Convent Rd., Ashton PA 19014.

3450th TRNG Sqn.—July, Denver—C.E. Rodgers, 420 26th St. NW, Minot ND 58701.

ALL BRANCHES

Amputees of WWII (Patients at McCloskey Gen. Hosp., Temple TX)—Aug., Louisville KY—Orville Martin, 2510 Hayward Rd., Louisville KY 40222.

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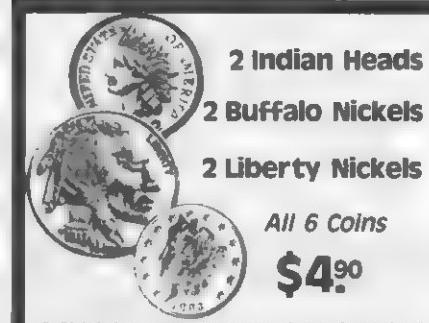
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R E U N I O N S

continued from page 49

The Caterpillar Assn. of the U.S.—Aug., Milwaukee—Johnny Brown, PO Box 1321, Kenosha WI 53141.
China Burma India Veterans—Sept., San Diego—Ken Marks, 40815 Oregon Trail, Cherry Valley CA 92223.
Farragut Naval Training Station, (All Dentists & Dental Technicians)—Sept.—J.D. White, 4702 E. 25th St., Dickinson TX 77539.

Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans—Aug., Norfolk VA—Ted Blahnik, PO Box 181, Coloma MI 49038-0181.

Korean War Veterans Assn. Inc.—July, Arlington VA—William Norris, PO Box 4610, Halfmoon NY 12065.

All POW's from Korea—July, St. Louis—William Norwood, 909 Whisperwood Trail, Cleveland TN 37311.

Mine 3rd Inf. Ten Assn.—July, Charleston SC—Kenneth Cook, 63 Fort Royal Dr., Charleston SC 29407.

Special Forces Assn.—July, Hawaii—Ernest Leong, 86-148 Kakaapola St., Waianae HI 96792.

West Central Indiana Vietnam Veterans Assn.—July, Crawfordsville IN—Gary Bell, 1802 E. Wabash Ave., Crawfordsville IN 47933.

Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Assn.—July, Long Beach CA—Nancy Osterhout, PO Box 9592, Wichita KS 67277.

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ARMY

1/44, 4/80, 5/2 Arty., (AW), (SP), Dusters & Quads—July, Indianapolis IN—Hugh Roberts, RR1, Fenwick Rd., Fenwick MI 48834.

1st Cav. Div.—July, Killeen TX—Bob Little, 302 N. Main, Copperas Cove TX 76522.

2nd Indian Head Div., 23rd Inf. Rgt., (Korea)—July, Tacoma WA—Robert Curtis, 21104 117th St. E., Sumner WA 98390.

2nd Div. Ass.—July, Austin TX—Bill Creech, 16224 Ox Bow Trail, Buda TX 78610.

3rd Inf. Div., (Rock of the Negro)—June, Pacific Grove CA—John Shirley, 4218 Drake Way, Livermore CA 94550.

3rd Inf. Div., 30th Rgt., Co. M—Sept., Indianapolis IN—Albert Miceli, 2723 Lompoc St., Los Angeles CA 90065

4th Base Post Office—Oct., Chicago—Laddie Janura, 3803 S. Elmwood, Berwyn IL 60402.

6th Sig. Co., (WWII)—July, Green Bay WI—Clem Burkart, 1104 Downer Dr., Green Bay WI 54304.

6th U.S. Inf. Assn.—July, MO—Paul Smiljanich, 4069 Green Park Rd., St. Louis MO 63125.

7th Field Hosp.—July, Radcliff KY—Lyle Strain, 804 Cherry Wood Dr., Radcliff KY 40160.

9th Ord. MM—July, Omaha—Emil Koubsky, 5423 S. 15th St., Omaha NE 68107.

9th Inf. Div., (WWII)—July, Camp Hill PA—Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken NJ 07087.

10th Div.—July, Birmingham AL—Charles Winter, 4479 Village Green Dr., Birmingham AL 35243.

11th AB Div., 472nd FA—July, Cleveland—Taylor Young, 1127 Carl St., Duquesne PA 15110.

12th FB—July, Lester Kamp, 10967 Wildrose Ct., Boise ID 83704.

17th Inf. Rgt.—July, Los Alamitos CA—Dean Epperson, 6561 San Hernando St., Buena Park CA 90620.

22nd CA, Harbor Defenses of Portsmouth NH—July, Portsmouth NH—Richard Toomey, PO Box 196, New Castle NH 03854.

25th Div., 21st AAA, AW Br., (SP), Btry B—July, Avon Lake OH—Ken Forrester, 33843 Lake Rd., Avon Lake OH 44012.

25th Div.—July, Cleveland—Robert Muzzy, 809 Fortson Dr., Tokoma Park MD 20912.

26th Div., 112th Inf., Co. A—July, Corry PA—James Roden, 222 W. Smith St., Corry PA 16407.

28th QM Rgt., 117th Div.—July, Detroit—Walter Hartley, 1336 W. Colwyn St., Philadelphia PA 19140.

28th Div., 116th Inf., Co. M—July—W.D. Rowell, Rt. 1 Box 75, Emporia VA 23847.

29th Div., 115th Inf., Cos. I & L & all 3rd Br. Units, (WWII)—July, Laurel DE—Edgar North, Rt. 3 Whipple Dr., Delmar MD 21875.

31st, 40th, & 241st Engs., C. Div.—July, Little Falls NY—Gerald Stone, 507 Lake St., Herkimer NY 13350.

31st Div., 150th Inf. Rgt., Co. G—July, Nashville—Willis Hull, 808 E. 4th St., Wellington KS 67152.

31st Div., 150th Inf., Co. E—July, Cleveland MS—George Kelly, PO Box 369, Cleveland MS 38732.

32nd Div., 832nd TD Br., Co. C—Aug., Racine WI—Michael Fojtik, 711 Crabtree Ln., Racine WI 53406.

33rd Div., (All Units)—July, Springfield IL—Bill Endicott, 15309 Arrowhead Dr., Bothell WA 98011.

34th Div., 123rd FA—July, Duluth MN—Henry Zoldak, 3314 Vernon St., Duluth MN 55806.

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34th Div., (WWII, Tri-State Chapter)—July, Sandusky OH—John Mahl, 37252 Sugar Ridge Rd., North Ridgeville OH 44039.

35th Div., 137th Regt., Co. H—July, Ottawa KS—H. Brohammer, Rt. 1, Baldwin KS 66006.

38th Div., 14th, 142nd & 144th Regt.—Sept., Fort Worth TX—Leonard Wilkerson, PO Box 2049, Malakoff TX 75148.

37th Engr. Combat Bn.—July, Fort Wayne IN—Cole Thompson, PO Box 153, Silver Lake IN 46982.

39th Div., 182nd Inf., (WWII)—July, Vincennes IN—Alan Stephens, 2842 Wahoo Dr., New Albany IN 47150.

38th Div., 38th Inf. Co.—July, Greenwood IN—Ward Buss, 28323 CR 16 W., Elkhart IN 46516.

38th Div., 146th Armn.—June, Louisville KY—Marion Williams, 2005 Redleaf Dr., Louisville KY 40222.

39th AAA Regt., HQ & Btry.—July, Austin MN—John Curran, 711 10th St. NE, Austin MN 55912.

42nd Rainbow Div.—July NY—Louis Rondinaro, Salt Point Rd. Rt. 1 Box 30, Watkins Glen, NY 14891.

44th Inf. Div. Band, (WWII)—June, TN—Fred Kirchoff, 29 Hever St., Little Ferry NJ 07643

45th Thunderbirds, 120th Medevac, Co. A., (WWII)—July—Fred Cannon, 702 E. Main, Cushing OK 74023.

50th AAA AW BN, (EP), (Korea)—Sept., Sandusky OH—Gene Ross, 530 Race St., Clyde OH 43410.

82nd Combat Engr., (WWII)—July, Wapakoneta OH—Donald Gross, RR 1 Box 76, Wapakoneta OH 45896.

80th Sig. Svc. Co.—July, Tacoma WA—Donald Woods, NE 263 Tahuya River Dr., Tahuya WA 98588.

84th Troop Carrier Regt.—Sept., Dayton OH—William Wendling, 913 E. 98th St., Apt. A, Indianapolis IN 46240.

88th Sig. Bn., (WWII)—July, Olean NY—Albert D'Orsi, 140 Brookdale Park, Rochester NY 14609.

88th Recon. Troop—Sept., Cincinnati—Robert Schueler, 1484 Stahlheber Rd., Hamilton OH 45013.

70th Div.—July, Louisville KY—James Warmouth, 6545 W. 11th St., Indianapolis IN 46214.

77th FA, 631st FA, 2nd Bn.—July, TX—J.W. Smith, RR 1 Box 155, Blanco TX 78606.

78th Div., 311th Regt., Co. F—July, Arcanum OH—Paul Solomon, 4309 North Point Ct., 45322.

79th Div., 804th FA BN—July, Jackson MS—John Hill, Box 215, Louisville MS 39339.

79th Gen. Hosp.—July, Valparaiso IN—Leonard Hidlebaugh, 219 McIntosh Box 150, Hebron IN 46341.

80th Div.—July, Albany NY—Ed Bredbenner, 141 Honness Ln., Ithaca NY 14850.

83rd Ord. Co. NM Tank—Sept., Richmond VA—Garland Eanes, 601 Compton Dr., Colonial Heights VA 23834.

88th Chem. Mortar Bn., (Camp Fischer, Alabama & Asiatic Pacific war zone)—July, TN—Clarence Iles, 486 Harrow Ln., Saginaw MI 48603.

89th Div.—Sept., Boston—C.W. Waters, PO Box 925, Havertown PA 19083.

91st Div., 91st Recon. Troop—Sept., Minneapolis—Robert Olson, H.C.R. 77, Pine River MN 56474.

94th Div.—July, Baltimore—Ross Jordan, 1415 Orion Rd., Batavia IL 60510.

96th Gen. Treatment Bn., (WWII)—July—Frank Todaro, 79 Broadway, Harrison NY 10528.

98th Div.—July, Memphis—Bill Broschek, 17819 S. Station Rd., Columbia Station OH 44028.

99th Div.—July, Pittsburgh PA—Le Roy Higgins, 408 Hillcrest Dr., Delmont PA 15626.

101st C.A., AA BN—July, Bainbridge GA—Lee Johnson, 1444 Baracoa Ave., Coral Gables FL 33146.

112th Div.—July, Albany NY—Frank Alfiero, 211 Reynard Rd., Bridgewater NJ 08807.

103rd Div., (WWII)—July, Denver—H.T. Ellsworth, 8280 Moreland Rd., Jerome MI 49249.

105th Station Hosp.—July, East Hanover NJ—Owen Weiser, 4930 Rambo Ln., Toledo OH 43623.

113th Cav. Bn., 113th & 120th Sqdn.—July, Cedar Rapids IA—Tim Donovan, 209 Linden Ave., Highlands NJ 07732.

120th Station Hosp., (WWII)—July, Memphis—Dilimus Hearnberger, 4719 Kenmar Cove, Memphis TN 38128.

42—Sept., Dayton OH—Norman Wright, 302 E. Lima St., Forest OH 45843.

129th AAA BN—July, Columbus OH—C.R. Vollmer, 940 Plum Ridge, Columbus OH 43213.

133rd Inf. Assn., 2nd Bn.—July, Mason City IA—Paul Behrens, 326 12th St. S.E., Mason City IA 50401.

continued on page 52

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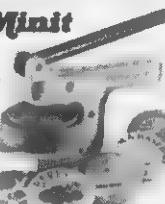
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REUNIONS

continued from page 51

730th Railway Operating Bn., Co. C.—Sept., Scranton PA—Joseph Muia, 89 Belmont St., Carbondale PA 18407.

741st Tank Bn.—July, Effingham IL—Betty Ochs, RR3 Box 279, Newton IL 62448.

749th Railway Operating Bn.—July, Nashville—Donald Gothard, 4173 Dixie Ct., Columbus OH 43228.

754th Tank Bn., (WWII)—July, Albany NY—Michael Stepien, 122 Churchill St., McKees Rocks PA 15136.

760th FA Bn.—July, St. Louis—Don Allen, PO Box 129, Carrollton IL 62016.

762nd MP Bn., (WWII)—July, Milwaukee—Joseph Buich, 3913 E. Squire Ave., Cudahy WI 53110.

771st FA Bn., Btry. A.—July, Nashville—Lawrence McPherson, 606 Sutton Dr., Xenia OH 45385.

780th AAA Bn.—July, Frankenmuth MI—Eugene Brown, 7556 Musson Rd., Six Lakes MI 48886.

807th TB Bn.—July, Ashville NC—Walter Elium, Rt. 12 Box 429, Salisbury NC 28144.

808th Engs. AF HQ Co.—July, Minneapolis—Vince Pearson, 2131 Fairways Ln., Roseville MN 55113.

820th FA Bn.—July, Indianapolis—Harry Linback, PO Box 126, Brookston IN 47923.

829th FA—July, Kenosha WI—Delbert Cornell, 4503 Greenbay Rd., Kenosha WI 53142.

1021st Engs. Treadway Bridge Co.—July, Colorado Springs—Vernon Jensen, 4223 N. Chestnut, Colorado Springs CO 80907.

1061st Engs. AB—Sept., Reno—Gerald Cooksey, 5421 Mark Twain, Carson City NV 89701.

1906 AVN. Eng. Bn.—July, Grand Rapids MI—Don Hill, 308 W. Baseline Rd., Lafayette CO 80026.

2190th QM Truck Co., ETB, (1943-45)—July, Nottingham PA—Everett Williams, Rt. 1 Box 142C, Nottingham PA 18362.

3053rd QM Gasoline Supply Co., (WWII)—Sept., Nashville—J.R. Hackney, 718 Powers Ave., Nashville TN 37206.

4142 QM SVC. Co., Co. B.—July, Cheektowaga NY—Leonard Pokorski, 23 Cannas Ct., Cheektowaga NY 14227.

MAC V Advisory Team 47—July, Pittsburgh PA—Bill Clepper, 1070 Alcoma St., Sharon PA 16146.

ORD. MM & HAM Organizations, (WWII, Pacific areas & Europe Occupation)—1987—Howard Nordlund, 104 Shannon Run, Peachtree City GA 30269.

Tokyo, Japan Army Army Baseball Players—July, Omaha NE—Arch Teigren, 1023 Forest St., Brookings SD 57006-3225.

COAST GUARD

USS Cobb (181)—Sept., Murrayville IL 62668—William Joseph, Box 156, Murrayville IL 62668.

US CB Cutter MODOC (W-48), (WWII)—1987—Maurice Steinberg, PO Box 178, Carle Place NY 11514.

USS Joseph T. Dickman (APA-13)—Oct., New Orleans—Kenneth Batek, 109 13th Ave., Pass-a-Grille Beach FL 33706.

USS Lansing (DE-388), USS Gen. McMeigs (AP-118) & USS JC Breckinridge (AP-178), (WWII)—1987—Wilbert Huebner, 208 Malone Ave. Box 207, Readlyn IA 50668.

USS (LST-787)—Oct., Norfolk VA—Ralph Burns, 8-B Fallbrook St., Whiting NJ 08759.

USS Pools (DE-151)—Aug., Secaucus NJ—Donald Macchia, 256 Spruce St., Bloomfield NJ 07003.

USS Samuel Chase (APA-28), (WWII)—Sept., Baltimore MD—John Brogan, 188 Oak Hollow Rd., Springfield MA 01128.

CSCC Wachusett (WHEC-44) (Vietnam crew)—Sept., 1988—Gary Hodge, 115 W. Bullard Ave., Lake Wales FL 33853.

MARINES

1st Mar. Div., Special Weapons Bn., (WWII)—Sept., Baltimore MD—Walter Costello, 8459 Main Ave., Riviera Beach MD 21122.

1st Mar. Div., 1st Laundry Plm., HQ Co., (WWII)—Sept., Denver—Gene Stramel, 3440 S. Eudora St., Denver CO 80222.

1st Mar. Div., 7th Rgt., 1st Bn., H&S Co., FMF Pacific, (Vietnam only)—July, Washington D.C.—Joseph Rotuno, 1129 N. Morgan St., Decatur IL 62526.

2nd Mar. Div., Ord. Co., (WWII)—Sept., Rapid City SD—Donald Scroggins, 1708 Liberty St., Parkersburg WV 26101.

2nd Mar. Div., 10th Mar., 4th Bn., (1942-44)—Sept.—Robert Fiala, 9536 Plainfield Dr., Rock Hill MO 63110.

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3rd Mar. Div.—July, San Diego—John McLynn, 2121 Skyview Glen, Escondido CA 92027.

5th Mar. Div., 3rd Med. Bn., Co. B—July, San Antonio—Francis Ebenkamp, 1413 Maute St., Jasper IN 47546.

6th Mar. Div., 3rd Inf. Bn., Co. A—July, San Antonio—

[WWII]—Aug., Charleston SC—Hiram Quillin, 218 Spring Valley Court S.W., Huntsville AL 35802.

8th Mar. Div., (WWII)—June, NE—O.E. Hundley, Rt. 2 Box 136, Elwood NE 68937.

8th Mar. Div., 3rd Inf. & AAA Bn., (WWII)—Aug., Hershey PA—William Callahan, 202 Redford Rd., Oreland PA 19075.

11th Air Warning Sqdn., (Kure Shima)—July, Ann Arbor MI—Joseph Nowak, 5910 Warren Rd., Ann Arbor MI 48105.

NAVY

USS Baltimore (CA-68)—Aug., Pittsburgh PA—Jim Klueg, 536 52nd St., Altoona PA 16602.

USS Barnett (APA-5)—June, Denver—John Kolstad, 2213 Ming Ave., Bakersfield CA 93304.

USS Beale (DD-471)—Aug., Sacramento CA—LR Banks, 7204 N Telman, Fresno CA 93711.

USS Belle Grove (LSD-2) & USS Ashland (LSD-1)—July, Chicago—Delbert Catron, 14732 Van Buren St., Midway City CA 92655.

USS Benner (DD-807)—July, Philadelphia—Ray Dare, 3625 W. Moreland RD A7, Willow Grove PA 19090.

USS Birmingham (CL-82)—Sept., Santa Rosa CA—M.A. Jeffrys, RR2 Box 57D, Chester IL 62233.

USS Bismarck Sea (CVE-95)—July, Atlantic City NJ—Peter Moretti, 4615 Park Rd., Sea Isle City NJ 08243.

USS Boise (CL-47)—Sept., Boise ID—Don Fitch, PO Box 26983, Salt Lake City UT 84126.

USS Boggs (DD-136/DMS-3)—Sept., LaCrosse WI—Mark Schaefer, Rt. 1 Box 254, Sparta WI 54656.

USS Bordelon (DD-881), (1948-58)—July, Buffalo NY—Cecil Briley, 6321 Nell St., Ft. Worth TX 76119.

USS Bridge (AF-1)—Aug., Harry Griswold, Box 592, Kaslo, British Columbia V0G 1 MO.

USS Brooklyn (CL-40)—Sept., Cleveland OH—Thomas McMullin, 2031 W. 15th Ave., Emporia KS 66801.

USS Brush (DD-745)—Aug., Reno—Quinton Miller, 309 Fayette Davis Ave., Cleveland MS 38732.

USS Calvert (APA-32)—July, Nashville TN—Billie Trout, Rt. 2 Arnold Rd. Box 129, Christiana TN 37037.

CASU-44 ITB-3, (Tinian, WWII)—July, Atlantic City NJ—Hal Olsen, 991 Roadrunner Circle, Las Cruces NM 88001.

USS Dashiel (DD-889)—July, Homer IL—Bill Steffey, RR1 Box 318, Homer IL 61849.

USS Elmore (APA-42)—July, Cambridge MD—Donald Messick, 14 Harris Dr., Cambridge MD 21613.

USS Gustafson (DE-182)—July, Amarillo TX—John Hardy, Rt. 2 Box 63, Perryton TX 79070.

USS Harding (DD-825/DMS-28)—Sept., Orlando—Taylor Watson, Box 13A, McDaniel MD 21647.

USS Helena (CL-50, CA-75 & ASN-725)—Aug., Reno—Bill Bunker, 1139 Arcadia Ave. 1, Arcadia CA 91006.

USS Henderson (DD-785)—Aug., Reno—Dick Sierra, 605 Park Way, S. San Francisco CA 94080.

USS Henley (DD-381)—Sept., Kansas City MO—Roy Anglen, PO Box 3, Hume IL 61932

USS Hilbert (DE-742)—July, Buffalo NY—Louis St. George, 80 Cottage St., Fredonia NY 14063

USS Hoe (SS-258)—Aug., Little Rock AR—Harry Flagg, 7003 23rd Ave. W., Bradenton FL 33529.

USS Holder (ODE-818)—July, Boston—George Royal, 154 Riverlin St., Millbury MA 01527.

USS Hopping (DE-158/APD-51)—Sept., Charleston SC—Charles Bulce, 1401 Lehigh Ct., Winston Salem NC 27103.

USS Ira Jeffery (APD-44) & (DE-63)—July, Philadelphia—Robert Babcock, RD1 Box 106, Owego NY 13827

USS LCS 53—July, Tell City IN—Roy Debusk, 909 Locust St., Sweetwater TX 79556.

USS LCS (L) 111—July, St. Paul MN—Leonard Franzwa, 1966 Hoyt Ave., St. Paul MN 55119.

USS Lowry (DD-770), (WWII)—July, Long Beach CA—Bob Jacquin, 7112 Plateau Ave., Richmond Heights MO 63117.

USS LSM 24—July, Norfolk VA—De. Catron, 14732 Van Buren St., Midway City CA 82655.

USS LST 828—July, South Bend IN—Harry Doyle, 1011 S. 30th, South Bend IN 46615.

continued on page 54

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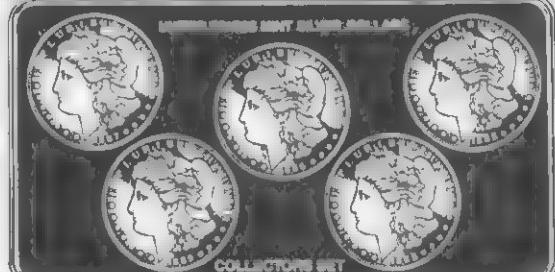
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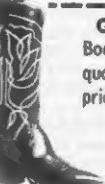
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R E U N I O N S

continued from page 53

USS Lyon (AP-71)—July, Winchester MA—Lawrence Orsillo, 63 Oak St., Winchester MA 01890.

USS Mansfield (DD-728)—Aug.—Donald Spangler, 3101 S. 4th Apt. 2, Springfield IL 62703.

USS Marsh (DE-689)—Sept., Seattle WA—John Cullinan, 3507 Halloway North, Upper Marlboro MD 20772.

USS Massachusetts Associates Inc.—June, Somerset MA—Robert Grimes, 11 Spring St., Waltham MA 02154.

USS McGinty (DE-365)—July, Portland OR—Tom Lapsley, 3008 NE 45th Ave., Portland OR 97213.

USS McGowen (DD-678)—July, Boston—Don Rogers, 30 Hurd St., Lynn MA 01905.

USS McNair (DD-679)—July, Lancaster PA—Gene Mulbarger, 8118 Cheswick Dr., Indianapolis IN 46219.

USS Pennsylvania—July, Memphis—Sheran Fontenot, 5360 Rolling Acres Dr., Baker LA 70714.

USS Pete (SS-265)—Aug., Little Rock AR—Robert McCoy, Box 304, Pier Blossom CA 93553.

USS Petrel Bay (CVE-80) & Air Personnel—July—Ambrose Ruchotzke, 441 15th Ave., Camanche IA 52730.

River Patrol Force, (Task Force 116, PBR's & Sea-wolves)—June, San Diego, Aug., Norfolk VA & Nov., Albany OR—John Williams, PO Box 5523, Virginia Beach VA 23455.

UDT/Seal—July, Little Creek VA—R.T. Gallagher, PO Box 5365, Virginia Beach VA 23455.

USS Sheas (DM-30)—Sept., Minneapolis—Don Orlicki, 2623 3rd St. NE, Minneapolis MN 55418.

USS Sibley (APA-206)—Sept., San Diego—C.A. Case, 3519 Mt. Abraham Ave., San Diego CA 92111.

USS Skagit (AKA-105)—Aug., Grand Junction CO—Albert Gomez, 1605 B St., Garden City KS 67846.

USS State (SS-303)—Aug., Little Rock AR—Ray Ferry, RT. 4 Box 89, Lockport IL 60441.

S.L.C.U. 36 Boat Pool Baker—July, Hurst TX—Donald Brown, 1008 Mitchell, Irving TX 75060.

USS Twining (DD-540), (1943-71)—July, Minneapolis—Bruno Campagnari, RD2 Dugan Rd., Olean NY 14760.

USS Uniontown (PF-88)—Aug., Uniontown PA—Clark Crawford, 1007 N. 15th St., Clarinda IA 51632.

Utility Sqn. (WWII)—Sept., Reno—Vic Masdeo, 1390 Holly Ave., Los Altos CA 94022.

VP-1, VPML-1, Patron One—Aug., San Diego CA 92154.

VP-24, VPB-104, VPB-104, VPML-4 & VAHM-13—July, Pensacola FL—Bob Richart, 1111 Barnes St., Milton FL 32570.

VPB-208—Sept., Seattle WA—Jack Powell, SE 181 Teagle Dr., Shelton WA 98584.

USS Vincennes (CL-84)—Sept., Mystic CT—Joe Broderick, GB 1 Baker St., West Roxbury MA 02132.

USS Wadsworth (DD-518)—Aug., Seattle WA—Richard Lowe, RR2 Box 200, St. Elmo IL 62458.

USS Weinwright, USS Buck, USS Bristol, USS Trippie, USS Rhind, USS Rowan & Des Ron 8—Sept., Bloomington IN—Owen Sanders, 409 Lawrence Rd., Haertown PA 19083.

USS Walter B. Cobb (APD-106)—Sept., Knoxville TN—James Plough, RT1 Box 89 Lynnwood Heights, Jefferson City TN 37760.

USS Washington (BB-56)—Sept., Mobile AL—John Brown, Box 13047, Columbus OH 43213-0047.

USS Wasp (CV-7)—Sept., San Diego—Red Connell, 7215 W. 24th St., Tacoma WA 98446.

USS Wayne (APA-54), (1943-48)—Sept., Kalamazoo MI—Herb Rinehart, 906 Mifflin Rd., Topeka KS 66606.

USS West Point Reunion Assn.—Sept., New Orleans—John Daniel, 3728 S. Fuller, Independence MO 64052.

USS Whipple (DD-217)—Sept., Orlando FL—Joe Russell, RT1 Box 42, Siles MO 63377.

USS William Seiverling (DE-441)—July, Latham NY—Pat Cancilla, 106 Fairfax Row, Waterford NY 12188.

USS Wilson (DD-408)—Sept., St. Louis—Milton Crookston, 571 Inwood Dr., Santa Barbara CA 93111.

USS Woolsey (DD-437)—July, Las Vegas—Tony Torres, PO Box 9291, Whittier CA 90608.

USS Wright (AZ-1, AV-1, CVL-48 & CG-2)—Sept., Philadelphia—Charley Barger, 414 Naish Ave., Cocoa Beach FL 32931.

USS YMS 52—Sept., Denver—John Bishop, 517 E. 2nd, Minneapolis KS 67467.

USS YMS 299 Minesweeper, (WWII)—Sept., Edmonds WA—John Steinberger, 18220 Sunset Way, Edmonds WA 98020.

USS YR 32—July, Lily WI—Harold Rife, 1341 Porky Ln., Lily WI 54445.

3rd NCB—Sept., Phoenix—Charles McKenney, 19203 N. 29th Ave., Space 205, Phoenix AZ 85027.

8th NCB—Sept., Redding CA—Ralph Martin, 745 Ridge Rd., Redding CA 96063.

20th NCB—Sept., Kissimmee FL—Pat McGrath, 206 SE 37th Terr., Cape Coral FL 33904.

26th NCB—Sept., Rapid City SD—Harry Friedrich, 3671 Mockingbird Ln., Dayton OH 45430.

28th NCB, (WWII)—Sept., Niagara Falls NY—Bruno Petruccione, 43 3rd St., Yorkville NY 13495.

29th NCB—Aug., St. Louis—James Arcaro, 115 Majestic, Lombard IL 60148.

30th NCB—June, MA—Daniel Paul, 171 Oak St., Clinton MA 01510.

33rd NCB—Sept., Daytona Beach FL—Frank Devreux, 4300 SE St. Lucie Blvd., Stuart FL 33494.

35th NCB—Sept., Nags Head NC—Phil Silver, 924 Stafford Ct., Westbury NY 11590.

37th NCB—Sept., Joplin MO—Henley Alexander, RT1 Box 118, Hallowell KS 66744.

52nd NCB—July, Pine Bluff AR—H.W. Wardlaw, Box 40, Altheimer AR 72004.

60th NCB—Sept., Wooster OH—Stanley Levers, 4069 Cleveland Rd., Wooster OH 44691.

61st NCB—July, Nashville—Herbert Porter, 309 W. 4th St., Pana IL 62557.

62nd NCB—Sept., Cincinnati OH—Bill Stehlin, 2172 Pinney Ln., Cincinnati OH 45231.

63rd NCB—Sept., Des Moines IA—Vernon Cooley, 104 E. Babbitt, Knoxville IA 50138.

67th NCB—Sept., Oxnard CA—William Armstrong, 124 Maple Terr., Pittsburgh PA 15211.

93rd NCB—Sept., Junction City KS—Riney Beerman, 301 Susan Ln., Junction City KS 66441.

114th NCB & 627th, 628th & 629th CBMU's—Sept., Oakbrook IL—Frank Kalman, 6200 Willowhill Rd., Willowbrook IL 60514.

128th NCB—Aug., Tampa—Lenno Johnston, Star Rt. Box 27, Pineville MO 64856.

143rd NCB—Aug., Columbia MO—Willis Rinne, 510 W. 31st, Higginsville MO 64037.

568th & 569th CBMU—Aug., Boston—Nicholas Schiro, 76 Columbus Ave., Hasbrouck Heights NJ 07604.

582nd CBMU—Aug., New Orleans—Tom Ingrassia, 45058 Robin Trail, St. Amant LA 70774.

583rd CBMU—July, Tuscaloosa AL—James Gaddy, RT4 Box 21, Fayette AL 35555.

SEEKING

The Seeking column is published on a first-come first-served basis. Submission forms are available from VFW Magazine, Seeking, 406 W. 34 St., Kansas City MO 64111.

USS PCS-1387, (WWII)—Reunion?—Richard Trusty, 20 Old Quarry Rd., Westfield MA 01085.

USS Duluth (LPD-8)—Seeking Albert Debbs & Francis Adams—Harold Clyman, 213 Chicory Ct., Buffalo Grove IL 60089.

401st Bde. Sqdn.—Seeking anyone who remembers my uncle Russell R. Ahlgren—Russell Ahlgren, PO Box 1260, York Beach ME 03910.

USS Chase (DE-158) & (APD-54)—Reunion?—Henry Sanders, 19 Bradford Dr., Salem NH 03079.

454th Bomb Gp., (WWII, Italy)—Reunion?—Ralph Branstetter, PO Box 678, Wheat Ridge CO 80034.

728th MP Bn., (WWII)—Seeking Robert Gallipean & Roy Wilson—Herbert Liner, 15700 Providence Dr., #610, Diplomat Towers, Southfield MI 48075.

USS Perch (SS-313), (WWII)—Reunion?—James Martin, 1473 Crestview Circle, Morristown TN 37814.

Sweden, WWII—For a book dealing with Sweden's role during WWII seeking veterans who came in contact with the late Count Folke Bernadotte—Harry Trimborn, 332 Dalkeith Ave., Los Angeles CA 90049.

USS Winged Arrow (AP-170)—Reunion?—Richard Youngdahl, PO Box 302A, Brockport PA 15823.

USS (LST-883)—Seeking Div. E. members, especially Bobby Brewer & Robby Dike—Eugene StillDay, Box 63, Ponemah MN 56666.

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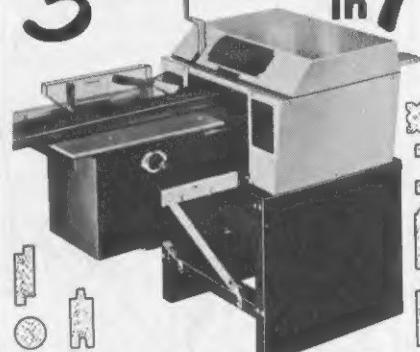
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"The bad news is we're crashing. The good news is your luggage is probably on another plane."

Check

Fishman said to his new secretary, "Miss Dandridge, always add a column of figures at least three times before you show me the result."

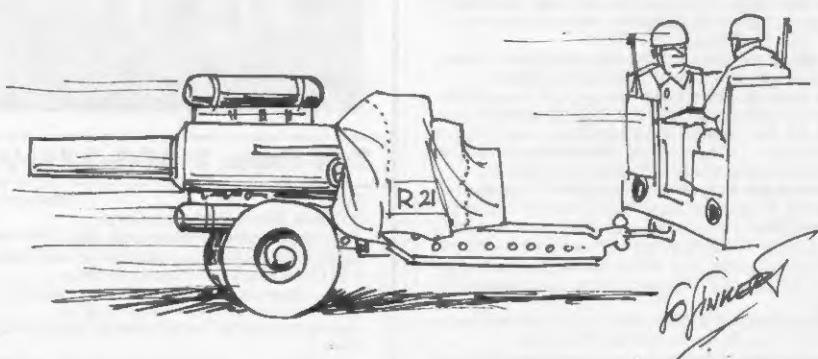
The next day she came in with a big smile. "Mr. Fishman," she said, "I added these figures ten times."

"Good. I like your thoroughness." "And here are my ten answers."

Praise

The college coach's team had won handily — and he was savoring every word of praise coming from the college president. Then he asked the president, "Would you like me as much if we didn't win?"

"I'd like you as much," replied the president. "I'd just miss having you around."



Baby

A young couple had a loving relationship with their little boy, who especially looked forward to the time each day when his father came home from work. The youngster's father took time to play with his son; their love for each other was obvious.

One day his mother approached the little fellow with what she considered great news: "You are going to get either a little sister or a brother. Isn't that wonderful?"

He frowned and put his head down. "Not a sister. A brother."

He looked thoughtful. "And he'd better bring his own daddy."

Difference

"How would you like your eggs served sir?" asked the waitress.

"Is there any difference in price?" asked the patron.

"None whatsoever, sir."

"Then serve them on a nice thick slice of ham."

Yield

A hesitant driver, waiting for a traffic jam to clear, came to a stop on an expressway ramp. The traffic thinned, but the timid driver still waited.

Finally, an infuriated voice came from behind: "The sign says yield, not give up."

Night

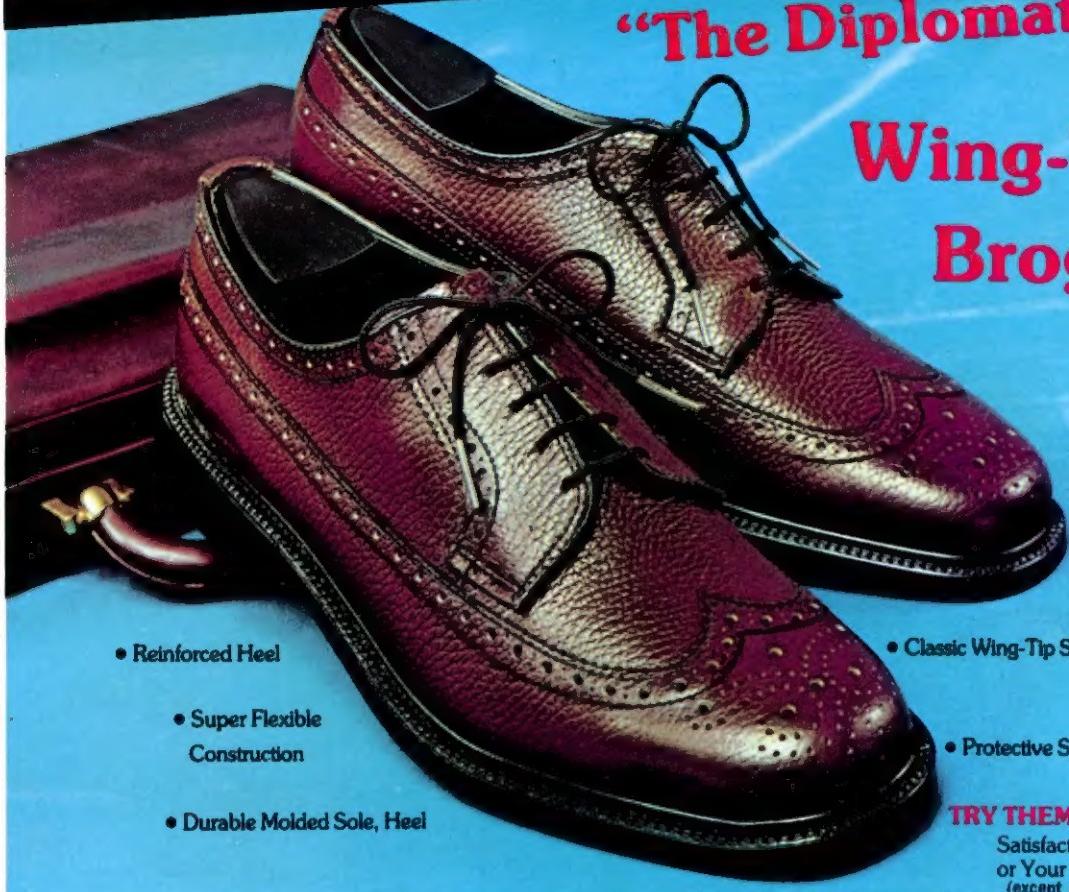
A teenager from the city was paying his first visit to a farm. Awakened at 5 a.m. by the normal bustle of farm life, he grumbled into his pillow, "It sure doesn't take long to spend the night here."

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